

Industrial Worker

JUNE 1996

#1591, vol. 93 no. 6

\$1.00/50 p



EDUCATION

ORGANIZATION

EMANCIPATION

May Day Protests Hit Austerity

International Workers Day was celebrated throughout Latin America with marches, strike calls and demonstrations against neoliberal policies, privatization, unemployment and low wages.

"Privatization will not pass!" was the chant on May 1 in El Salvador, where more than 10,000 workers from 60 unions attended a march called by the United Workers Central and the National Union of Salvadoran Workers to protest the planned privatization of the country's telecommunications, water and electricity services.

More than 30,000 Hondurans participated in a May 1 march in Tegucigalpa, called by the Unitary Confederation of Honduran Workers, General Workers Central and the Confederation of Honduran Workers to protest the country's economic situation. Another 20,000 workers marched in the city of San Pedro Sula.

May Day marchers in Guatemala called for signing a peace accord between the government and guerrillas; respect for labor rights; and an end to privatizations.

Bolivia's labor day march turned into a protest against the recently approved privatization of the country's oil industry, with union members declaring "a day of mourning" and workers draping black ribbons over their banners in La Paz. A tearful labor leader described the new law as a defeat for unions. "I don't think that any honest Bolivian can be happy about the new oil law, because it is a very serious thing that will weigh on our country for a long time," said Oscar Salas, executive secretary of the Bolivian Workers' Central (COB).

For the second year in a row Mexico's Congress of Labor (CT) cancelled its traditional May 1 march in Mexico City. For most of the century the pro-government unions have marked the day with processions of workers thanking the Mexican president and the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) for the year's economic achievements. But with Mexico deep in a recession, CT leaders chose instead to hold a brief ceremony in which several hundred handpicked union members greeted President Ernest Zedillo Ponce de Leon. Even this select audience gave the president some angry whistles.

21 CT unions formed the 'Union Forum Before the Nation' to sponsor May Day

continued on page 7

Yale workers in hard battle..

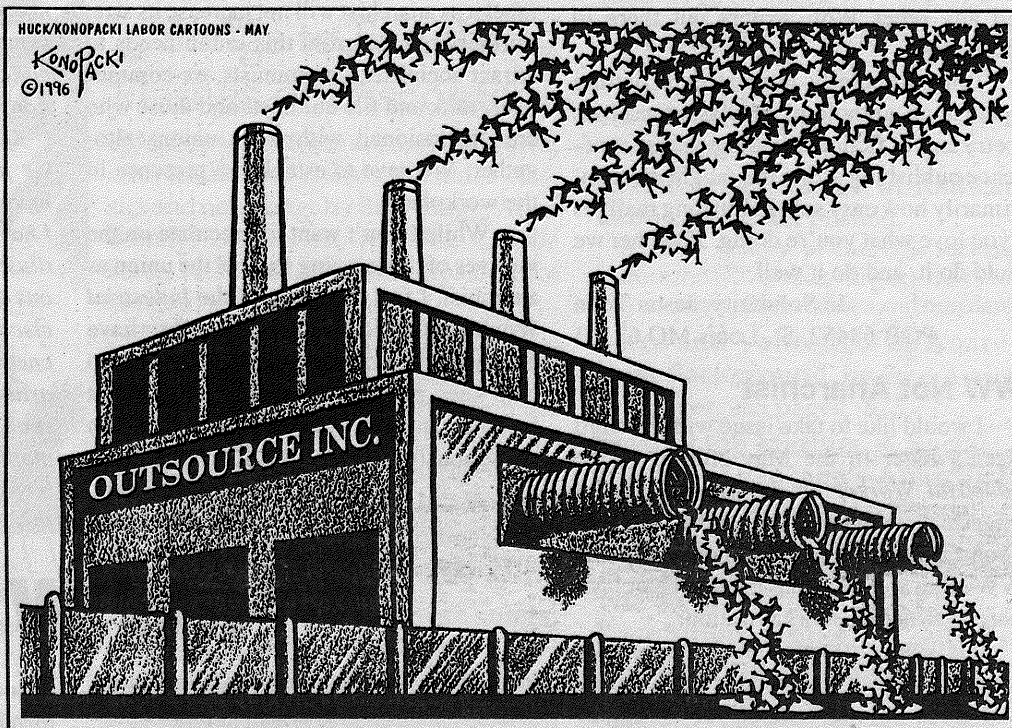
Industrial Unionism is Way to Win

The folly of One Big Jigsaw Puzzle unionism is currently playing out at Yale University, where thousands of workers are fighting the bosses with both hands tied behind their backs. Strikes by teaching assistants, clerical workers, and service and maintenance workers have been suspended until Fall, while they try to pressure Yale to back off from turning labor conditions back 25 years.

In 1970 one-third of Yale's unionized workers were on welfare, even as they held down regular jobs with the University. Over years of struggle, workers succeeded in winning better wages and year-round work.

Now Yale wants to turn the clock back. Full-time dining hall workers, for example, earn an average \$23,000 a year (many are part-timers, and so earn far less). It is (barely) possible to support a family in New Haven on such a wage. So Yale wants to cut the wages of new dining hall workers by nearly \$4 per hour and eliminate summer work. (Dining hall and other seasonal workers are presently shifted to maintenance tasks during the summer, eliminating the earlier system where they were laid off for 22 weeks out of every year.) Together, these changes would cut dining hall wages from \$23,000 to \$10,000 a year, leaving workers well below the poverty line.

Yale offered to withdraw this proposal



only if workers would accept unlimited subcontracting, which would mean gradually replacing the bulk of the union workforce with new workers getting low wages and negligible benefits.

Yale is also demanding the right to fill all job openings – whether due to expansion, retirement or turnover – with subcontracted jobs at lower wages, and with no bargaining rights. Already nearly 1,000 Yale workers have no health benefits as "casual" workers, part-timers and "permanent temps," who work full-time at Yale with no benefits, no job security and no bargaining rights.

Yet Yale is the second wealthiest school in the country, with an endowment of nearly \$4.5 billion. As manufacturing jobs have left an increasingly impoverished New Haven, Yale has become the company in a company town – accounting for one out of seven jobs. Although Yale could easily afford to continue its present wage scale and union contracts, administrators prefer to slash wages and jobs not because they have to, but because they believe they have the power to do so.

The strike is now on hold, and the

continued on page 8

Wildcat Closes GM Lordstown Plant

When UAW Local 1112 shop steward chair Al Alli went off the clock April 13, under the union contract he was supposed to notify management. He never has, this time GM fired him.

Alli was one of the most popular and respected UAW local leaders that ever worked at Lordstown, so workers responded to his firing by walking out in a wildcat strike. Under a court order to end the walk-out, union officers urged workers to return to work, but it took three days to get them back on the job. Many GM workers inside the plant are wearing hats with Alli's name on them and "Free Alli" t-shirts.

The Lordstown, Ohio, plant has a long history of wildcats. When the plant was being built in 1966-66, construction workers repeatedly walked off the job over safety complaints and work rules.

GM opened the plant with younger workers, who it thought would be more docile and less union-minded. They were wrong. Many of GM's new workers were Vietnam vets who weren't about to be pushed around the factory floor. In 1967 the plant was shut down four times by wildcat strikes.

GM reorganized the plant in 1971, hoping to increase productivity. The breakneck pace left workers exhausted and angry, and in 1973 five men in masks stopped production for two shifts by picketing over an unspecified issue.

Long lay-offs and a new "cooperative" union leadership put the lid on wildcats for several years. But as GM returned to profitability – and used the profits to step up its war on GM workers – Lordstown workers

have grown increasingly militant. Many workers believe GM fired Alli in hopes of intimidating workers with a strong show of force in the aftermath of a recent Ohio strike and national lock-out over outsourcing.

The firing has made workers even more determined to resist GM's efforts to ease manpower shortages in the Lordstown plant with lower-paid temporary workers, instead of adding permanent workers. The lack of workers is forcing regular plant shut-downs. By halting production for workers' breaks, the company is losing production of at least 100 cars a day.

Negotiations for Alli's reinstatement continue, and the union appears confident that GM will be forced to back down and reinstate him with full back pay. (Many of the alleged infractions occurred years ago, and were ignored by the company until it was looking for an excuse to fire him.) Meanwhile, UAW members are gearing up for a fight against outsourcing. About 300

United Auto Workers presidents and shop committee chairs recently passed a resolution calling for "no outsourcing for the life of the 1996 agreement." The issue is expected to be a key part of local and national contract negotiations in the coming year.

Canada Workers to Strike?

The likelihood of a strike against General Motors of Canada has soared with GM's announcement that it wants to sell two Ontario parts plants. Canadian AutoWorkers president Buzz Hargrove said, "We're going to fight like hell, and our position is that these jobs are not going to leave the General Motors operations."

General Motors headquarters in Detroit announced in April that it would sell five Delphi parts plants in Ontario, Michigan and Georgia. Workers picketed GM headquarters April 22, saying enough is enough, and pledging not "to lay down and let G.M. walk all over our livelihoods."



In This Issue...

**Liverpool Dockers
Struggle Everywhere**

Their Money or Our Lives

Benevolent Bosses?

Couriers Joining IWW

\$1.00, 50 pence UK



0 6

Industrial Worker
103 West Michigan Avenue
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

ISSN 0019-8870

Second Class Postage

PAID

Ypsilanti, MI
and additional
mailing offices

Address correction requested

Loved Poetry

Fellow Workers,
I was impressed and excited by the poetry in the May issue. As a new Wob- bly, I was heartened to find that the imagina- tive tradition of the IWW is today as vigor- ous and healthy as ever.

Since I'm a writer myself, I'd like to ask Penny Pixler, Mick Parkin, Brian Comiskey, Tashuka Raven, Ophelia Navarro, Smokey George, Jack McCarthy and any other Wob writers out there to contact me.

I'm particularly interested in putting together an anthology of class-conscious poetry and/or fiction. My three years' expe- rience publishing a zine has taught me a lot; primarily how easy self-publishing really is if you love what you're doing. Together we could do it, and do it well.

In Solidarity, Jason Toon
POB 63452, St. Louis MO 63163

IWW Not Anarchist

I would like to take issue with Howard Olsen's letter in the May edition of the *Industrial Worker* on the grounds that it suggests that the IWW is anarchist and part of some anarcho-syndicalist movement. The IWW is not and never has been an anarchist/ anarcho-syndicalist organisation.

It is worrying to me to see proposals put forward that seek to place the IWW in the position of linking "anti-statist" struggles with "other anarchists" (sic). Those who continue in their attempts to divide the union by fusing their anarchist activities with union activities are doing the IWW a great disservice. Our emphasis should be on industrial organising and not getting involved in a

Reader's Soapbox

myriad of single-issue political campaigns and reforms.

For over 70 years too many people have perceived the IWW to be "semi-anarchist" and have consequently been alienated from it. During this time the union has been about the size of your average ant - continuing to label it as anarchist will not increase its size. Furthermore, to grow this union needs to attract socialists, communists, ex-commu- nists, rank and file unionists and those who are disillusioned with trade unions alto- gether. We have to establish a presence in the workplace.

While I don't want to speculate on the motives of those trying to label the union as anarchist, I feel the editor of the *Industrial Worker* and Executive Board members have a duty to the union and its constitution to help keep politics out of this union - that includes anarchist politics. Only then can we seriously begin to rebuild the IWW.

For the One Big Union,
Derek Devine, Edinburgh

Editor's Note: FW Devine is of course correct in asserting that the IWW is not an anarchist organization, even if many of our members are anarchist. It is not, however, customary to hold newspapers responsible for the views expressed in their letters column. My policy as editor has always been to allow readers a fairly free hand in the letters columns, as it is their paper, not mine.

Our next letter, however, almost did not see print. Anyone reading it will instantly note that it is contrary to IWW principles and practice. Its author takes exception to FW Hicks' comments in our last issue ("Against Custerism," p. 5) and asks that we publish his reply, surrounded by "as many disclaimers... as deemed necessary." I have been persuaded to publish it only to illustrate the character of the very dangerous ammunition the editor of the San Francisco Branch newsletter has handed our enemies in publishing this reader's original article. FW Hicks offers a rather mild response, which takes this "argument" far more seriously than your editor believes it merits. This exchange closes discussion of this issue in our columns:

Rethinking Rebel Theft

Worker rebellion has never been with- out criticism. In whatever form it has emerged throughout history, a counter-argument against that rebellion was loudly heard. The strike, for instance, a valuable tool to worker's rights, is still criticized by some as counterproductive to the workers. Arguments opposing the strike inform us that workers are only hurting themselves, or that they should be happy to even have a job, and that striking decreases profits and there- fore depresses the economy. Similar argu- ments are made in opposition to all forms of rebellion, but working-class rebellions are never fully accepted. With each new form of rebellion, the opposition to that idea must be louder than the rebellion presented, and it is. With the concept of rebel theft the same thing is happening; the idea is undermined by opposing opinions and belittled by vari- ous accepted arguments.

Rebel theft encompasses many ideas. Primarily it is about the working class and the impoverished majority using new meth- ods to help counter the inequalities of capi- talism and empowering the poor through shoplifting and, or, employee theft from
continued on page 10

I.W.W. DIRECTORY

Job Branch= 5 or more members in workplace
GMB=General Membership Branch
IU=Industrial Union Del=Delegate
GOC= Organizing Committee.
IU 330: Building Construction Workers
IU 450: Print & Publishing House Workers
IU 460: Food Processing Workers
IU 510: Marine Transport Workers
IU 530: Motor Transport Workers
IU 610: Health Service Workers
IU 620: Education Workers
IU 630: Entertainment Workers
IU 660: General Distribution Workers
IU 670: Public Service Workers

AUSTRALIA

NEW SOUTH WALES

Sydney Regional IWW- PO Box 508, Moss Vale 2577 Wobbly@xchange.apana.org.au

CANADA

MANITOBA

Winnipeg GMB- B. Mackay, PO Box 3204, GNPO, R3C 4E7

ONTARIO

Ottawa GMB- 388 1/2 Kent, K2P 2A9. 613/ 231-2922 <indwrk@web.apc.org>
Toronto Group- 11 Andrews Ave M6J 1S2. 416/ 941-9945 Meets 1st Thurs 7 pm; phone for location.

BRITISH ISLES

Regional Organising Committee- 75 Humberstone Gate, Leicester LE1 4WB, tel no 0116-266-1835

ENGLAND

London Group and IU 530 Couriers Union- BM Box 4529, London WC1N 3XX, 0171-358-9124
Oxford branch- c/o Oxford Claimants and Un- employed Workers Union, East Oxford Com- munity Centre, Princes Street, Oxford
Swindon Region GMB and Research Councils IU 620 group- del: Kevin Brandstatter, 9 Omdurman Street, Swindon SN2 1HA, 01793- 610707

General Distribution Workers IU 660 and Kent IWW- del: Ray Carr, 40 Cornwallis Circle, Whitstable, Kent CT5 1DU

SCOTLAND

Stevenson College IU 620 Branch- Rm 3.05 Bankhead Avenue, Sighthill, Edinburgh

WALES

Aberystwyth IWW- c/o 14b Vulcan Street, Aberystwyth, ph: 01970-624 590

IRELAND

Co. Wicklow IWW- PO Box 20, Bray, Co Wicklow. Del: Bob Cullen.

UNITED STATES

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles GMB- Meets 2nd, 4th Sundays. Location call (24hr): 213/368-4604. Andrew Willett 1724 Westmoreland Blvd., LA 90006. IU630 Film Workers- Miguel Sanchez, 1748 Clinton St. Los Angeles 90026 213/368-4604

<two@mach1.directnet.com>

Mendocino- Bill Meyers, del. 707/884-1818.
San Diego Group- P.O. Box 907, San Diego 92112-0907. 619/284-WOBS
Santa Cruz GMB- PO Box 534, 95061
IU450 New Earth Press Job Shop- 1921 Ashby Berkeley 94703 510/549-0176
UCB Recyclers IU620 Job Shop-504 Eshleman Berkely 94720 510/642-4895. del.s: Monica Berini, Liam Flynn, Charles Long
IU670 Berkeley Recycling Ctr. Job Shop- del: Jojo Mends, 1231 Second St., Berkeley 94710
San Francisco Bay Area GMB- PO Box 40485, S.F. 94140. e-mail: sfgmb@iww.org Offices: Redstone Building, 2940 16th St. (at Capp), #216-2, San Francisco 94103 415/863-WOBS
Long Haul Resource Center, 3124 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 94705 510/845-0540. Mon, Thurs 4-7 p.m., Tues, Wed, Fri 3-6, Sun. 6-9p.m. GMB meets 3rd Saturdays at Long Haul, 1:30 p.m., Open Delegates Meeting 1st Saturdays at Long Haul, 1:30p.m. General Organizing Committee meets 4th Saturdays at the San Francisco office.

COLORADO

IU450 P&L Printing Job Shop- 2298 Clay, Denver 80211. 303/433-1852
Denver/Boulder-Del:Cliff Sundstrom 910E.8th Av.#202, 80218. 303/832-7602. Brendan Ruiz, POB 370663, 80237-0663

GEORGIA

Atlanta Group- George Nikas, 11 Clarendon Pl., Avondale Estates 30002. gnikas@unix.cc.emory.edu Lorenzo Ervin Kom'boa- 673 Wylie St. SE, 30316.

HAWAII

O'ahu GMB- PO Box 11928, Honolulu 96828; 808/247-8584; wilcox@uhunix.uhcc.hawaii.edu

ILLINOIS

Chicago GMB- 1340 W Irving Park Road #287 60613, 312/549-5045. Meets 1st Sunday 3 pm (call for location).

LOUISIANA

Baton Rouge Group- Steve Donahue, 729 Bungalow Ln 70802. 504/389-9572.

MARYLAND

Baltimore GMB- Del. Rafie Bey, PO Box 8882, 21224-0882. 410/367-3024

MASSACHUSETTS

IU630 GOC- Jim Barclay, 75A Elm St. Worcester 01609
Boston Area GMB- PO Box 391724, Cambridge 02139. del: Steve Kellerman 617/469-5162 Meets 2nd Sunday of each month at 2 p.m. at Lucy Parsons Center, Central Square, Cambridge.

MICHIGAN

SE Mich. GMB- 103 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti 48197. 313/483-3548
IU630 Workers Stories Workers Lives Job Shop- Albert Parsons 313/769-0695
IU670 Ann Arbor Tenants Union Job Shop- 4001 Michigan Union, Ann Arbor 48109. 313/ 763-6876.

MINNESOTA

Duluth GMB- 8 N. 2nd Ave E., #301, Duluth 55803 218/723-7887.

MISSISSIPPI

Gulfport Group- C.G.Streuly 601/896-3515.

MISSOURI

St. Louis GMB- c/o Bob Tibbs, Jr., 10072 Hedge Dr., St. Louis 63137. 314/868-1472

MONTANA

Butte- Mark Ross, 111 W.Quartz 59701. 406/ 782-4465

NEW YORK

IU670 Socialist Party USA Natl Office Job Shop- 516 W. 25th St. #404, NYC 10001. 212/691-0776
Capital District Group- POB 74, Altamont NY 12009. (518)861-5627
Rochester- Del: Ric Garren, 716/232-4005
NYC GMB- Del: Wade Rawluk, 5610 Netherland Ave #4D, Bronx 10471. 718/796-3671. Rochelle Semel, RD 1 Box 158-B, Hartwick 13348. 607/293-6489

OREGON

Eugene GMB- c/o Rick George, 1840 W. 10th Ave., Eugene 97402

PENNSYLVANIA

Lehigh Valley GMB- POB 4133 Bethlehem 18018 610/515-0181. Del: Trish D'Amore 434-0128. <len.flank@node99.com> Bruce Mark Nevin, 141 E King St #8A, Lancaster 17602.
Reading Group- PO Box 8468, 19603. Del: Dennis Good 215/921-2459; Rick Page 215/ 562-3487
Philadelphia GMB- 4722 Baltimore Ave. 19143. 215/724-1424 ext. 1 <phillyiww@iww.org>
IU660 Wooden Shoe Books Records Job Shop- 112 S. 20th St. 19103. 215/569-2477.

SOUTH CAROLINA

IU450 Harbinger Publications Job Shop- Merll Truesdale, del., 18 Bluff Rd. Columbia 29201. 803/254-9398

TEXAS

Houston Group- PO Box 981101, 77098.

UTAH

Salt Lake Branch- Tony Roehrig, PO Box 520514, Salt Lake City 84152-0514. 801/296-7196 email: slcgmb@iww.org

VERMONT

Burlington Branch- c/o Thomas Jordan or Deborah Ormsbee, POB 1004, Williston 05495. 802/482-4601 or 863-0571 nfnena@igc.apc.org

WASHINGTON

IU460 Fairhaven Co-op Flour Mill Job Shop- 1115 Railroad Ave. Bellingham 98225.
Industrial Transportation Project- Arthur Miller, POB 5464, Tacoma 98415-0464
Puget Sound GMB- PO Box 20752, Seattle 98102 206/935-9012

WISCONSIN

IU450 Lakeside Press Job Shop- 1334 Williamson, Madison 53703 608/255-1800.
Madison GMB- PO Box 2605, 53701. 608/ 255-1800. Del: Tim Wong, Jerry Chernow

Industrial Worker

THE VOICE OF REVOLUTIONARY UNIONISM

Industrial Workers of the World
103 West Michigan Avenue
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197 USA
313/483-3548
email: iww@ igc.apc.org

General Secretary-Treasurer:
Fred Chase

General Executive Board:

Kevin Brandstatter, Heather Harman,
Ingrid Kock, Penny Pixler, Rochelle
Semel, Maria Tomchik, Pete Wilcox

Articles may be submitted to:

Jon Bekken, editor
101 Western Avenue #15
Cambridge MA 02139 USA
jbekken@igc.apc.org

Women's Column Editor: Anne
Petermann, PO Box 57, Burlington
VT 05402 nfnena@igc.apc.org

Printed by Teamsters union labor
Online Edition: <http://iww.org/~iww/>

ISSN 0019-8870 Official monthly
publication of the *Industrial
Workers of the World*. Second
Class Postage Paid Ypsilanti MI &
other mailing offices.

Postmaster: send address
changes to: *Industrial Worker*, 103
West Michigan, Ypsilanti MI 48197.

Individual Subscriptions \$15
Library Subs \$20/year
(Member sub included in dues)

Articles not so designated do not
represent the official position of the
IWW. No ads. Donations welcome.

Press Date: May 13, 1996

Organizing the London Couriers

An organizing leaflet by the IWW Couriers Union (IU 530) points to a recent union organizing drive in New York City to challenge the notion that unionization "is a good idea but will never work" and that "self-employed" (or "independent contractors" in U.S. parlance) workers can't act together to win better working conditions.

"As we all know, the courier business exploits workers and offers very little protection against accidents, sickness, unemployment, etc. The terms of employment are often plainly fraudulent and many of the practices a disgrace.

"The union aims to fight for couriers rights. Its success will depend on the support of individual couriers, and that means standing up and being counted rather than boring everyone in St. Annes Court or the Hole or Carnaby Street with the same old stories about the company took this, didn't give that, did the other. We have heard it all so many times before and wonder how much longer people will take such degrading treatment before they do something to try to change things. Or are you just donkeys — you bray a bit from time to time, but shown a little carrot you forget the stick and start plodding along again. We support any kind of cooperative venture by couriers because we believe part of the reason that the bosses have always been successful at keeping the riders down is 'cos the bosses have always been able to make us believe that it's every rider for themselves. Divide and rule.

"The other angle is that whilst the majority of companies are engaged in nefarious working practices to keep the overheads down (employee protection costs money — that's why they don't do it) it means that the few who genuinely want to give riders a better deal cannot afford to do so because the increased costs would force them out of business.

"So what difference could a union make? First of all, the meetings provide the opportunity to exchange information. Because of the experience of the IWW they can provide you with an organisation to improve the conditions in which you find yourself. It doesn't have to mean wildcat strikes. It could just mean giving you the access to materials so you could pass around flyers letting people know about bad company scams, for instance Special Delivery. How come they are still in business? Even by courier company standards they are seriously mickey mouse. Surely if everyone knew that they were crap they wouldn't get any riders and they would fold. Because

Around Our Union

after all, what's a courier company without couriers?

"Seize the Opportunity. Don't just wait to contact the Union the next time you get ripped off. The Union needs participation now to keep going and to grow. Not all couriers get the chance to join a union. Seize the opportunity.

"For more information, phone the Hotline 0171 358 9124 or write to the IWW Couriers Union, BM Box 4529, London WC1N 3XX. Better still, come along to a branch meeting at The Railway Tavern, York Way N1, Last Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m."

May Day in Duluth

Duluth Wobblies helped organize that city's third Annual International Workers Day Celebration on May 1. 60 people attended a noon rally, 20 people attended a working dinner to strategize over the Duluth Living Wage Ordinance, and 50 people attended a May Day lecture at the University of Minnesota-Duluth by Peter Rachleff.

The Duluth GMB continues to be active in efforts to win the Duluth Living Wage Ordinance. The issue is not the amount of the hourly wage, they say, but rather the need for community standards for living wages.

Capital District (NY) Wobs Press for Living Wage

Capital District IWW continued their monthly picketing in support of the Campaign for a Livable Minimum Wage in April with considerable media attention, while also involved in other educational efforts in upstate New York.

"We're here to raise consciousness," local IWW delegate Greg Giorgio told a TV10 news audience at a picket line at one of Schenectady's McDonald's. "This artificially low, low minimum wage of \$4.25," he added, is not a living wage. The television coverage also pointed out that 7 million American workers currently slave at



San Francisco Wobblies marched with the Food Not Bombs contingent at an April 13 "Fight the Right" rally which drew nearly 50,000 people.

photo: Mike Ballard

the federal starvation wage.

A local right-of-center newspaper pundit got word of the IWW demonstration and tried to discredit its approach. This sparked a series of angry letters to the editor in defense of the Wobblies.

Capital District IWW also began to contact respondents to a living wage survey recently. They are now at work with a plan to begin to organize low-wage workers to get them directly involved in the political and direct action campaign to raise the minimum, the real struggle to gain a living wage in New York State.

FW Giorgio has been invited to several schools lately to speak about the IWW and to offer materials from the union. In early April, Professor Larry Wittner asked Giorgio to address his SUNY Albany history course about the history of the IWW since World War I. Wittner and Giorgio concluded the session with Wobbly songs, accompanying themselves on guitar and harmonica.

Capital District IWW also secured a literature table at a community fair hosted by Watervliet High School. Students were informed about the local labor scene and took home copies of the *Industrial Worker*.

Local Wobs spent May Day in downtown Schenectady, distributing nearly 200 fliers about the history of International Workers Day and in support of Leonard Peltier.

New Branch in Eugene, Oregon

The newly organized Eugene (Oregon) IWW Branch made their public debut with a May 4th celebration at Hendricks Park. There was food, music and other activities relating to May Day and to May 4, the 110th Anniversary of the Haymarket Massacre, as well as the murders of students by members of the U.S. military at Kent State University.

San Francisco

I took the day off on May 1st and travelled in to San Francisco for a demonstration sponsored by the Bay Area Coalition Opposing Fascism and endorsed by the San Francisco GMB of the IWW. They were giving away gloves and some clothes to workers who routinely stand on Cesar Chavez street waiting for local exploiters to pick them up for day labor. About 120 workers attended the rally, though most seemed to have come for the gloves. I wore my IWW T-shirt and there was one older worker, like me, who was wearing a T-shirt with the lyrics of "We have fed you all for a 1,000 years" on it.

He didn't know that it came from the "Little Red Songbook." The immigrant workers seemed to know that it was May Day and the older FW told stories about being in Chile during the May Day stuff down there and getting questions about "that" labor federation in the U.S. When asked if it was the AFL, the Chilean fellow worker said

no. He thought it was the IWW.

I had a good time. I took off after the demo and got a double espresso and then drove back to my territory and dropped off my bundle of IWs at Keplers' Bookstore.

Tristan

Los Angeles

LA Wobblies held a May Day poetry rant at Sam's Book City in North Hollywood. Titled "Wobblies, Pilebutts and Other Heroes: Words and Songs of Social Struggle," featured readers included Robert Chambers of the Homeless Writers Coalition, Dirk DeGeyndt, Wobbly troubador Andrew Willett and Miguel Sanchez.

Puget Sound Wobs in Phillips Benefit

On March 30th, the Puget Sound (Washington) General Membership Branch sponsored a benefit concert for the aid of long-time IWW Fellow Worker and labor songster Utah Phillips. Phillips suffers from congestive heart disease, so he's no longer able to support himself by traveling the country, playing his music and telling his stories. Over fifty people turned out at the AFL-CIO's Seattle Labor Temple to hear the music and support Fellow Worker Phillips. Over \$700 was raised.

Wobbly Jess Grant kicked off the proceedings with a moving statement written by Phillips explaining his circumstances and plans for the future. Following Jess' introduction, the musical part of the show began with performances by John Weis and Steve Lalor, followed by Tim Hall and Chris Roe, then FW Grant played. During the intermission people were able to purchase T-shirts that were donated by the Salt Lake City GMB and talk with local Wobs and performers. Linda Allen then played a 30-minute set and local favorite Jim Page finished the show...

The Branch also sponsored a May 3rd workshop in Olympia entitled Fire Your Boss, as part of local May Day activities.

— The Real Deal

May Day in Boston

More than 120 people turned out for a May Day benefit concert for Utah Phillips co-sponsored by the Boston Area General Membership Branch and local folk venue Club Passim. Nearly two dozen folk musicians—including Scott Alarik, Bill Bumpus, Martha Leader, Ellis Paul, David Rovics, Kate Seeger and Fred Small — were on the bill, playing their favorite Phillips songs, and joining together for a rousing version of Solidarity Forever to close off the proceedings. FW Russell Brandwein spoke in behalf of the Boston GMB, and introduced taped comments by FW Phillips.

Several songbooks, *Industrial Worker*s and other literature were sold, continued on page 7

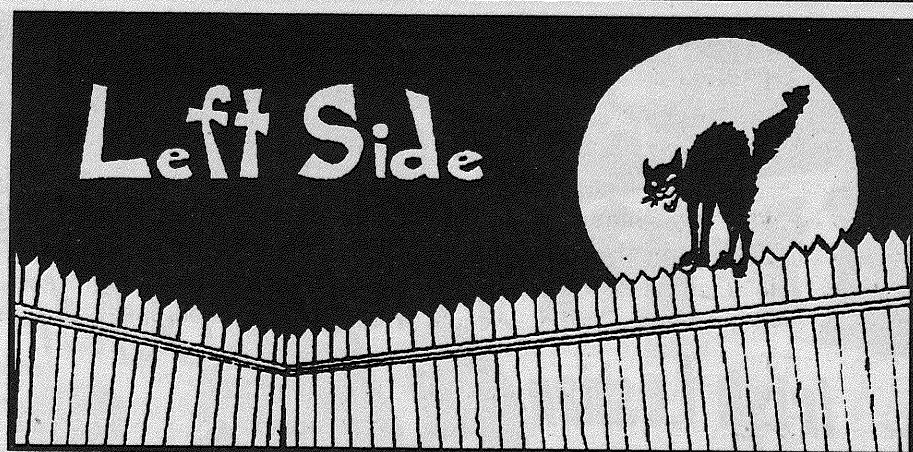
PREAMBLE TO THE IWW CONSTITUTION

The working class and the employing class have nothing in common. There can be no peace so long as hunger and want are found among millions of the working people and the few, who make up the employing class, have all the good things of life. **Between these two classes** a struggle must go on until the workers of the world organize as a class, take possession of the means of production, abolish the wage system, and live in harmony with the Earth.

We find that the centering of the management of industries into fewer and fewer hands makes the trade unions unable to cope with the ever-growing power of the employing class. The trade unions foster a state of affairs which allows one set of workers to be pitted against another set of workers in the same industry, thereby helping defeat one another in wage wars. Moreover, the trade unions aid the employing class to mislead the workers into the belief that the working class have interests in common with their employers.

These conditions can be changed and the interests of the working class upheld only by an organization formed in such a way that all members in any one industry, or in all industries if necessary, cease work whenever a strike or lockout is on in any department thereof, thus making an injury to one an injury to all.

Instead of the conservative motto, "A fair day's wage for a fair day's work," we must inscribe on our banner the revolutionary watchword, "Abolition of the wage system." **It is the historic mission of the working class to do away with capitalism.** The army of production must be organized, not only for everyday struggle with the capitalists, but also to carry on production when capitalism shall have been overthrown. By organizing industrially we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.



Leonard Peltier's bid for parole has been denied again. Despite the government's admission that no direct evidence links Peltier with the murders charged against him, the parole board continues to have him serve his two consecutive life sentences. Their reasoning is that it would be more convenient to keep an innocent man in prison than to have to face the controversy that might result from his being paroled. Shades of Orwell! Keep the phone lines busy and pester the Hell out of those gulag heads!

One of the things the Indian militants keep saying is "Keep it in the ground," referring to extracting the oil and other products from the Earth. When viewing such things as oil spills on the ocean and increasing automotive pollution, I believe our Indian brothers are by no means off the track.

There has been a lot of press over the genocide in the former Yugoslavia, particularly in the newly formed republic of Bosnia. Your scribe has mentioned the dearth of information about the same things going on in other parts of the world. There has been an ongoing program of genocide in Indonesia over the past decade. The Indonesian government has not only conducted a vicious campaign against its own citizens, ferreting out "communists," but has been decimating the population of East Timor, a former Portuguese colony.

When East Timor won its independence from Portugal, Indonesia invaded and took over, butchering many Timorese in the process. It is estimated that Indonesia has killed off between 500,000 and a million of its own citizens during its witch hunt. Out of a population of 650,000 it is estimated that the invading Indonesian government has killed some 200,000 Timorese through outright mass slaughter and starvation.

The Freedomland media that cries copious tears of indignation over Bosnia and the Islamic terrorists are quite silent about what goes on in Indonesia. But it is really not so strange when it is taken into account that numerous Freedomland-based oil companies have heavy investments in Indonesia. Among them: Standard Oil, Exxon, Phillips Petroleum, Mobil, Texaco, Chevron, Indiana Standard who have signed oil accords with the Indonesian government.

Despite the fact that the Indonesian army slaughters civilians and dumps their bodies out in the sea, the oil companies rejoice that profits are better than ever. Many of these companies are the same ones that conducted business with Nazi Germany long after reports of the death camps were common knowledge. It is not surprising in light of the fact that the founder of Standard Oil told the president of Freedomland "Arbitrate Hell! I am the boss out here!" before his gun thugs mowed down strikers and their women and children in Ludlow, Colorado.

According to *Z Magazine*, from where some of this information was gleaned, the benefits of Indonesia's bloodshed to the Yankee oil barons is no secret (except, perhaps, to the Freedomland public). The cry after the full story of the holocaust that took place during the second World War was "Never Again!" One old German philosopher said that those who ignore history are condemned to repeat history.

Z Magazine is one of the better lefty magazines and readers are recommended to give it a glance. If you can't find it at your local news stand, their address is 18 Millfield St., Woods Hole MA 02543. Their labor news coverage is on target.

In *These Times* reports that only four people have done time for OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health) violations. Justice Department officials are reluctant to prosecute OSHA violation cases, knowing that the federal workplace safety law allows for only six months in prison for a first offense. The maximum criminal penalty for harassing a wild burro on federal land is one year in jail, and seven people have been jailed for this crime. Arise with indignant wrath, o working stiffs throughout Freedomland. Demand to have equal rights with the wild donkeys! You have nothing to gain but your self-respect.

Don't vote, it only encourages them!

— C.C. Redcloud

The phone number for the gulag heads is 301/492-5952, fax: 301/492-6694; Attorney General Janet Reno can be reached at 202/514-2001, fax: 202/514-4371; the White House comment line is 202/456-1111.

Union Hall Blues

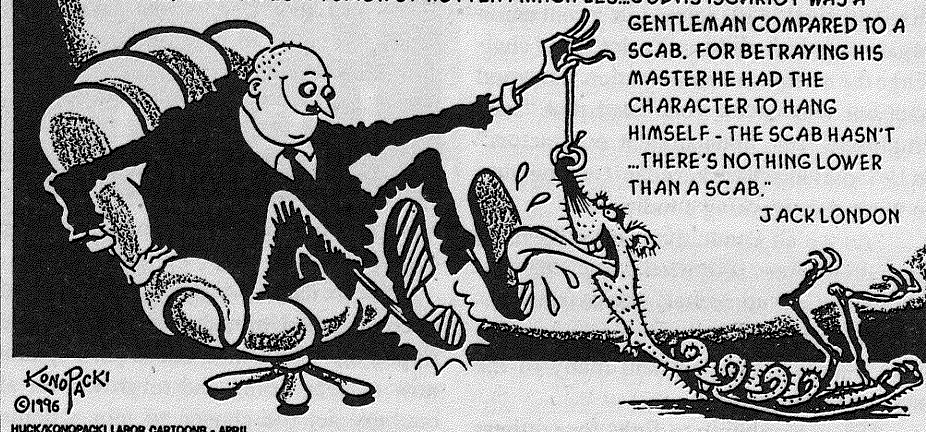
The IWW and the Molly McGuires
these are the things to which a union man aspires.
The union ratifies a contract the rank and file turned down
is this the Democracy on which your union was found?
Now it's givebacks on gains bloodily won
is this Joe Hill's union?
If your union seems pathetic
maybe it's because you're apathetic.
Who can turn back the dial?
only the rank and file.
Answer the call
get to the union hall.

— Jim Jordan

THE SCAB

"AFTER GOD HAD FINISHED THE RATTLESNAKE, THE TOAD, AND THE VAMPIRE, HE HAD SOME AWFUL STUFF LEFT WITH WHICH HE MADE A SCAB. A SCAB IS A TWO-LEGGED ANIMAL WITH A CORKSCREW SOUL, A WATERLOGGED BRAIN, AND A COMBINATION BACKBONE MADE OF JELLY AND GLUE. WHERE OTHERS HAVE HEARTS, HE CARRIES A TUMOR OF ROTTEN PRINCIPLES...JUDAS ISCARIOT WAS A GENTLEMAN COMPARED TO A SCAB. FOR BETRAYING HIS MASTER HE HAD THE CHARACTER TO HANG HIMSELF - THE SCAB HASN'T ...THERE'S NOTHING LOWER THAN A SCAB."

JACK LONDON



"No one wants to be confronted with a scabbing situation" — John Sweeney

That's what AFL president Sweeney said when I asked him what the "new" AFL-CIO was doing about union scabbing. Sweeney briefly mentioned the importance of respecting picketlines, but offered no proposals to deal with the epidemic of union scabbing sweeping the country. Instead he said the AFL would use its investments and corporate campaigns to pressure union-busting firms.

Sweeney spoke nostalgically of a golden age when a social compact between unions and employers enabled workers to climb into the middle class. He blamed the global economy for the attacks on workers that brought this golden age (which never existed for most workers) to an end. As profits soared, Sweeney said, wages fell. "Does a rising tide now sink all ships except for the luxury yachts?"

Yes, it does. So what solutions did Sweeney offer? The suit and tie crowd burst into applause when Sweeney promised to spend tens of millions of union dollars to elect more Democrats to Congress. He called on investors to reward "responsible business people," instead of enriching those who devastate workers and our communities. And he called for increased organizing, admitting that "the weakness of labor encourages employers to take the low road."

Several audience members were somewhat skeptical. One person questioned the Democrats' commitment to labor issues (rebuilding the AFL's political influence was a long-term process, Sweeney replied, and the AFL hoped to endorse Republicans as well); another suggested that the money earmarked for Democrats might better be spent to build a strong labor press and other community-based labor media (Sweeney discussed AFL public relations efforts). When one worker suggested recruiting existing union members to do union organizing instead of creating a cadre of careerists who had never worked under the conditions facing the workers they organized and represented, Sweeney talked about the difficulties he had trying to get a job on the union payroll after he graduated college.

It was, all in all, a most unimpressive performance. In my question, I noted that the labor movement too often stabs itself in the back, pointing to the A.E. Staley lock-out as an example. While 700 union workers were locked out of their jobs, other union workers crossed the picket lines to keep the equipment running, deliver raw materials, etc. What is the point of organizing, I asked, if we're not going to fight together, if we're going to allow union scabbing to undermine our efforts? Some people applauded, Sweeney responded by saying no one wants to scab and by blaming his predecessors.

But the main problem facing the labor

movement today is not the Republican Congress or the rapacious bosses. Bosses have always been bloodthirsty parasites, and the government has usually been on their side.

The problem is that we aren't organized, aren't organized right, don't stand together against our common enemy, and don't use the power in our hands to win better conditions through direct job action. We have the power to build a better world, if we will only use it...

Editor's Notebook



Intelligent Life

FW Phyllis Sembos sends a clipping from the Letters column of the *Record* as proof that there is intelligent life on this planet. It seems they published a letter from some ignoramus denouncing unions and blaming high wages for economic hard times and several indignant readers responded. A construction worker noted that "Union organizers fought hard, suffered, and even died to protect workers' rights... without unions, American workers don't stand a chance." An electrician noted that even non-union workers benefited from the improved conditions won by unions. "Of course, if there were no unions, there would be no jobs going overseas. Because we'd all be making a buck an hour in a sweatshop, and there would be no need for the robber barons to take their work elsewhere."

Organized Crime

Elsewhere, the Rainbow Coalition's newsletter notes that the total value of U.S. stocks has jumped by \$4.2 trillion in the last 10 years. If you took that money (just the increase) and divided it evenly, it would amount to about \$65,000 per family of four. U.S. government data reported in *Left Business Observer* indicates that the richest 10 percent of the population owns 67% of all wealth (77% if you exclude homes). If their wealth were divided among the bottom 90 percent, there would be \$137,192 per household (though the "value" of much of this paper wealth would vanish the instant we organized to take hold of it, as it is based solely on the employing class' control over the means of production).

Average CEO compensation soared 31 percent last year, according to a report in the *New York Times*, while most workers barely broke even. But there's booming business in the "outplacement" industry, and for economists who can explain why we should celebrate as wages fall and workers are tossed on the street...

Commissars at Work

The May 4 edition of the Communist Party's *People's Weekly World* contains an article titled "Little Red Songbook's musical history of ongoing struggle." The author intersperses a critique of "the rich" (terms such as capitalists or bosses are never used) with excerpts from four songs from the

Moon men? Decent CEOs? Looney tunes!

A few weeks ago, some guy name of Richard Hoagland claimed he had proof of an abandoned alien base on the Moon. NASA, he said, was involved in a massive cover-up. Hoagland, who came up with the "Face on Mars" hoax a few years ago, cites as proof some photos taken of astronauts' moonwalks with "suspicious" shapes visible in the background. This is pretty shaky stuff. Sort of like trying to "prove" from the boot-shaped map of Italy the existence of some guy with a Really Big Foot.

Still, it's easier to believe in Hoagland's alien life on the Moon than to believe that human beings inhabit corporate boardrooms in the Pacific Northwest.

Now bosses aren't exactly sweethearts anywhere, I have to admit. A recent survey by compensation expert, Graef Crystal, showed that CEOs' combined salaries, cash bonuses and stock options rose 31 percent in 1995, to an average of \$5 million. That's

Benevolent Boss?

When Malden Mills' textile factory burned to the ground last December, politicians and media pundits heaped praise upon owner Aaron Feuerstein, who promised to rebuild the plant in Massachusetts and kept most workers on the payroll until they could be put back to work.

But while President Clinton and Senator Dole were praising Feuerstein to the skies, at least one Malden Mills worker sees things differently. When asked at a recent May Day celebration what made Feuerstein a "model employer," he said it was the "big business press and the Democratic and Republican politicians."

Working in the factory that burned down was "like something out of Dickens," he said. The plant was a hundred years old, and falling down around workers' ears. Although police are trying to frame someone for the fire, gas leaks were routine and many workers feared the plant would burn down with them inside (indeed, one worker is still hospitalized).

In the plant's 1995 contract talks, Feuerstein demanded a "progressive job classification" scheme which would have forced workers switching from night to day shifts to abandon their seniority and start over at the lowest pay classification. He also demanded that workers pay \$30 a week more for their health benefits and accept a three-year wage freeze.

Feuerstein refused to back down from these demands until workers threatened a strike. Then he agreed to a modest pay hike (a 1 percent signing bonus and 1 percent a year in the second and third years of the contract), in exchange for higher worker insurance payments and harsher attendance rules. Malden Mills workers put in 12-hour days (four shifts keep the plant running 24 hours a day, seven days a week), and are penalized for absences even when they produce a doctor's note certifying that they were sick. Newer workers make 10 percent less, and never rise to full wages.

The company is making money hand over fist, and the fire will enable Feuerstein to replace his Dickensian firetrap with a state-of-the-art factory at the insurance company's expense. He kept the plant in Massachusetts, this wage slave explained, because "he's too old to move and he wants to keep an eye on us."

IWW's Little Red Songbook (and two other songs). But the IWW's name and initials are never mentioned, nor is there any hint of where the songs (some rather mangled by the commissars) came from.

continued on page 10

double the 1994 rise. Triple the 1993 rise.

The Labor Department says that the average employed worker's pay is rising too. By 3 percent.

Whoopee. Now we can afford to have the large fries.

Not that we deserve more. All we're doing for our pay is turning the wheels of industry. Piddly stuff like caring for the sick, paving the roads, rolling the steel and such. We're not doing anything really useful — such as slashing the workforce and poisoning the environment — like our betters, the CEOs.

But even though all bosses earn their meager compensation by such hard, honest work, ours here in the Northwest seem to be an especially inspired breed.

Like Bill Gates of Microsoft, who started up the ladder to success, according to a recent biography, by selling some big computer maker a little program called MS-DOS which he hadn't written, and didn't even own at the time of the sale.

And who can forget Howard Schults of Starbuck's, who got rich by taking the money (and probably the health) of coffee addicts like me? A judge just told him to stop taking 750 square feet of a city park to enhance the aesthetics of his new million-dollar estate. His lawyers promise to appeal this outrageous decision, which encroaches on the right of all homeowners to steal public property. Schults likes his rights a lot — last year the same judge ruled against him for widening a lane in that park to use as his driveway.

Sure, there are bosses elsewhere who rival our Northwest home team for sheer brass. One bunch of them run the British beef industry, which kept a lid on Mad Cow Disease for a decade, only to have the lid blown off this year. They tried to prevent having to slaughter a few hundred head of infected cattle, only to find themselves forced into slaughtering three million head today. Yes, it's enough to give you confidence all over again in the wisdom of plutocratic control of the economy!

The Cambodian government has suggested that the three million mad British cows be sent to Cambodia to set off that country's three million remaining land mines. That's a good idea, but I've got a better one: When the NFL football season gets underway we can fill the Kingdome with mad cows.

First advantage: Their health doesn't suffer from eating the food. The Ogden Entertainment Services cheapskates who had employees pick the mold off of antique sandwich buns rather than toss them out no longer have to mend their ways.

Second: Owner Ken Behring gets the bleachers filled by a crowd which doesn't care, the way human fans do, that he won't spend the money to upgrade the Seahawks. And he can forget his worries about lawsuits in the event of an earthquake. Mad cows never file lawsuits, no matter what.

As an added bonus, when he dares to show his face in the Kingdome, he gets moos instead of boos.

Mad cows and the corporate heroes of the Kingdome — it's the perfect business partnership! Perhaps, if it's a big success, it could even inspire other partnerships. Such as a collaboration between the tobacco industry and penny-pinching HMOs like Group Health...

On the other hand, I can see a potential problem. Boeing, which has always liked to push its workers around and treat us like we were dumb animals, might be tempted to bid on that Cambodian landmine deal.

—Mark Manning
reprinted from *The Real Deal*

There was a piece on NPR recently which I only caught in passing as I kept my nose to the grindstone. It was about the community of New Bedford, Massachusetts, where the city council has voted 10-1 to municipalize a factory. The factory had recently been purchased by a capitalist — you know, those people who focus on the bottom line and can't see the workers who make bottom lines possible; the people who, while crunching numbers, have no qualms about crunching workers in the process. This particular capitalist, named Kohlberg had no interest in running the factory. He bought it to close it down and combine its operation with another factory he owns in Georgia so that he could profit from a tax write-off. Forget the 120 workers and their families. Forget the community. Focus on the bottom line.

According to the report, the city had already been hit hard by other closings. This was one too many. If the plan passes a second council vote on May 23rd, the city plans to expropriate and operate the factory under the law of eminent domain.

from the desk of...

Eminent domain allows a government body to seize private property if it serves the interests of the governing body and if "just" compensation is paid. It's a law which has been used against workers more often than not. No doubt the attempt to use it on behalf of workers for once is making things lively in New Bedford. As for "just" compensation, some of us might think that not stringing up a boss who wants to put 120 workers on the street should be considered generous.

Kohlberg was willing to sell the plant to someone who would operate it, but only at a price which would have made capitalist profit impossible. When the goal changes from profit to keeping workers employed, the equation also changes.

Imagine the gall of a community which claims that its survival takes precedence over the property rights of an individual capitalist and is even willing to do something to back up its claim. Imagine that idea spreading to other communities. Imagine us taking positive action to protect our best interests instead of just reacting to the machinations of the bosses as we usually do. I love imagining. People before profit: a scary concept, perhaps an idea whose time has come. It's enough to give capitalists apoplexy, the only reward they've truly earned.

The concept of right to work is turned on its head here. For once it really means right to work instead of right to be exploited. Goodness, words which mean what they say in a Newspeak world where scabs have become "replacement workers," where shutdowns and layoffs have become "downsizing" and now even "rightsizing."

It's time for us to pick up on the idea that we have a right to control our own destiny rather than having it determined by property fetishists who have no interest in our well being. I'm no fan of government; but the closer it comes to the individual, the closer it can come to being truly representative. If a city council is willing to show some spine and stand up to the bosses, it can be a tool I believe we should consider using. Hopefully other communities in the region will recognize that their best interests are served by defending the right of the community of New Bedford to defend itself from the capitalist forces out to destroy it. If enough communities were to start passing ordinances stating that shut down businesses will be expropriated, will become the property of the community and will be operated in the interests of the community, why we might have a movement on our hands. And the tail-enders in state legislatures might eventually be forced to accept the idea. Eventually it might even be crammed down the throats of the tail of the tail-enders in Washington. No, it isn't the workers seizing power. But it's a community engaging in self defense and resistance. So Go New Bedford!

"If the workers take a notion we can stop all speeding trains..." goes a line from that old Wobbly hit tune: "Solidarity Forever." The people of New Bedford may be adding a new verse. If the workers take a notion we can start all idle factories too.

See you on the picket line.

— Fred Chase, General Secretary-Treasurer

Charlene Sato Memorial Fund

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Welcome Fawcett, Honolulu HI | 100 |
| Terri Menacker, Deerfield IL | 20 |
| Howard Ehrlich, Baltimore MD | 20 |
| Ann Shonle, Honolulu HI | 20 |
| George Jacobs, Honolulu HI | 50 |
| Thomas Grigg, Lisbon, Portugal | 25 |
| John Swindle, Honolulu HI | 40 |

Utah Phillips Solidarity Fund

| | |
|--|-----|
| David Markle, Brooksville ME | 20 |
| Edward McMahon, Seattle WA | 50 |
| Capital District IWW, Altamont NY | 50 |
| David Elsila, Grosse Pointe Park MI | 50 |
| Christine Covert, Hancock ME | 15 |
| Capital District Solidarity Committee, Albany NY | 110 |
| Lisa Matthias, Sedgwick ME | 15 |
| Paul Bernacky, Morrill ME | 10 |
| Sharon Riley, Bar Harbor ME | 20 |
| Brian Stewart, Harrington ME | 20 |
| John Spinney, Freedom ME | 10 |
| Lawrence Dansinger, Monroe ME | 10 |
| Shanti Renfrew, Cambridge MA | 100 |
| Arthur Ellison, Concord NH | 50 |

(Does not include benefit concerts in Boston, Seattle and Salt Lake City.)

Industrial Worker Sustaining Fund

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| Jim Jordan, Vienna OH | 10 |
| Robert Reynolds, Lynn MA | 15 |
| Paul Poulos, Hartwick NY | 20 |
| Joseph Dunst, Croton on Hudson NY | 20 |
| T.J. Hyland, Denver CO | 10 |
| Jack Wheeler, San Bernardino CA | 10 |
| Peter Aiau, Seattle WA | 20 |
| Jerry Pandora, San Pedro CA | 10 |

Many thanks, fellow workers, for your generous support.

Farewell, Fellow Worker

Albert Meltzer, long time revolutionary died on May 7 at the age of 76. Many wobblies will have met or known of Albert through the years as a forthright class-struggle anarchist who had a long involvement with *Black Flag* and the founding of the Anarchist Black Cross.

Albert had a stroke in April during a meeting of the Solidarity Federation, the British section of the International Workers Association. Fittingly his autobiography, *I Couldn't Paint Golden Angels* was just published, and only after many comrades spent months encouraging him to write it.

Their Money or our Lives

Three years ago, Alice Hayes' employer deactivated the safety devices on her molding machine and her hands were crushed with a clamping force of 200 tons. She lost both hands. She had worked for 19 years as a machine operator at Newburgh Molded Plastics in upstate New York, a company with a long history of workplace safety violations.

Newburgh Molded and its insurance company wanted to pay Mrs. Hayes less than \$50 a week and have her classified as only partially disabled. But Newburgh didn't get away with it. She sued the machine manufacturer, who in turn brought her employer into the suit. As a result, Alice Hayes recovered \$4 million in damages – 90% paid for by her irresponsible employer.

Sally Polhamus is a 49-year-old millionaire. She and her husband own Newburgh Molded, where Alice Hayes lost her hands. The company employs 105 people and has a 23-year record of workplace safety violations and injuries to its credit.

After Alice Hayes' hands were crushed Sally Polhamus sold the machine, avoiding inspection by the manufacturer, and denied responsibility. The machine was eventually found in Central America.

Adding insult to injury, in February Polhamus complained at Senate Labor Committee hearings about the high cost of workers' compensation. She used Alice Hayes as an example of a case that led to rate increases after a "freak mechanical problem."

She never volunteered that Mrs. Hayes lost her hands. She never told the Committee that her company tampered with the machine that crushed Alice Hayes' hands,

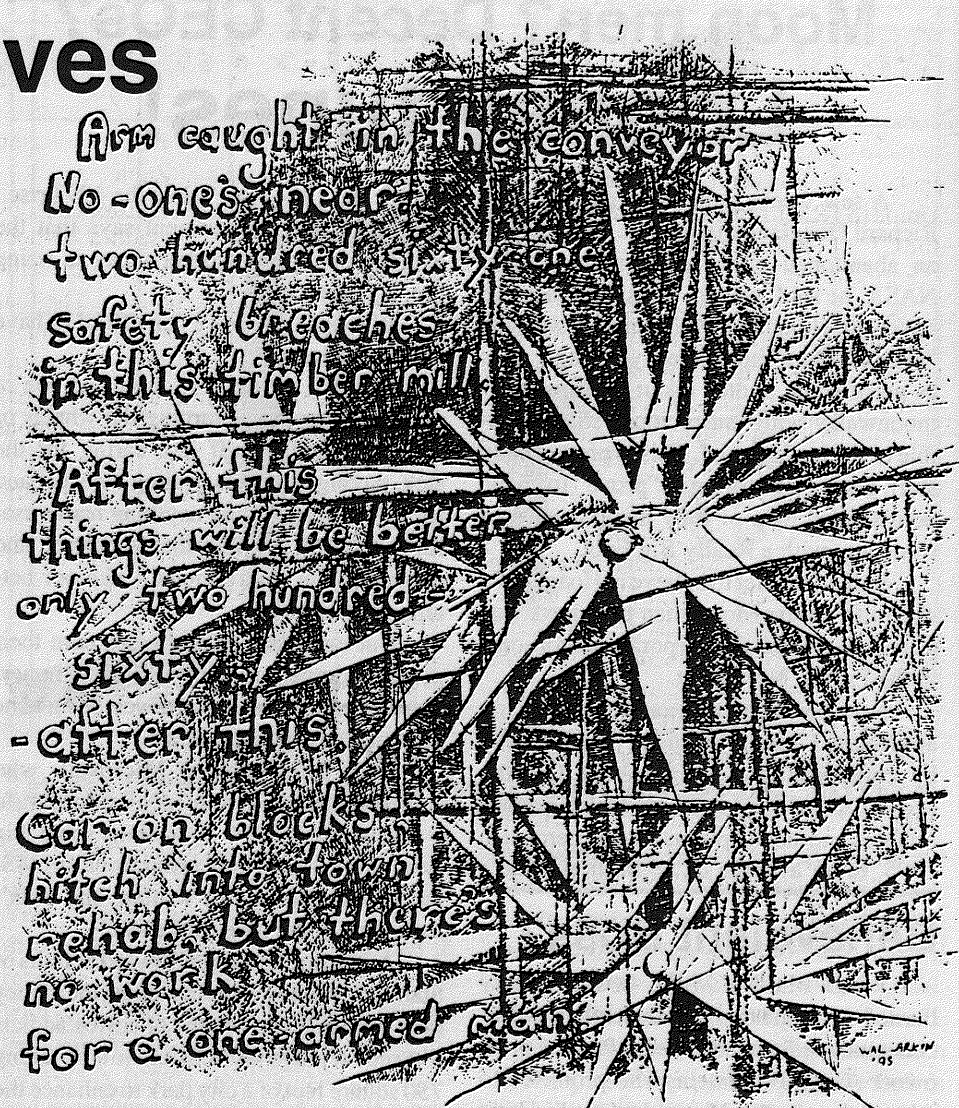
or that it failed to install a small inexpensive safety interlock and never maintained or inspected the three safety devices that failed that day.

Sally Polhamus complained that Alice Hayes "is a relatively unintelligent 62-year-old woman who is on her own with \$4 million," who could be living in a "trailer park."

Employers are on the warpath against workers' compensation, demanding "reforms" that will make it even cheaper to murder and maim workers in the pursuit of quick profits. On the federal level, they seek to gut OSHA and liability laws; in the states they are cutting benefit levels, putting injured workers at the mercy of company doctors, and throwing thousands of workers off the disability rolls.

A California-based workers' comp insurance company has announced a rather "unique" twist on the provision of managed care in workers' compensation. The Paula Insurance Company has arranged to provide "occupational medical treatment of injured U.S. workers in Mexico through Hospital Almatel, located in Mexicali." One wonders if this is what Ed Pouzar, a senior manager of Deloitte & Touche, had in mind when he wrote recently in *National Underwriter* (3/18/96), "there is gold waiting to be tapped in the workers' compensation field today. Companies prospecting for this payload may realize millions of dollars of revenue" by forming their own managed care arrangements.

Profits for commercial workers' compensation insurance carriers are at an all-time high; the combined ratio for 1995 is 98



percent. Remember that the calculation for combined ratios does not include investment income which, in recent years, has been nearly one-fifth of total premiums. Insurance companies are charging more and paying less than ever before in the history of workers' compensation.

Excerpted from *Workers Comp Notes*

Bosses Kill 220,000 Annually on Jobs

About 220,000 workers – six in every 100,000 – die around the world every year in work accidents or from illness contracted at their workplace, according to a new report by the International Labor Organization.

The agency said in a report to the World Congress on Safety and Health in Madrid that the problem was growing in many countries, suggesting it could be the result of increased competition in the global economy.

The number of work-related accidents is running at an estimated 125 million a year around the globe. Although the problem was much worse in developing countries, no region of the world was spared.

In the European Union, around 8,000 people die each year in work accidents, and almost 10 million others fell victim to work-related traumas or occupational diseases.

The risk of death was very high in some jobs – especially in the construction industry, where the rate of fatal accidents is 10-20 times higher than the average of six per 100,000.

Caterpillar Fined

Caterpillar Inc. has been found in contempt of court for refusing to allow federal health officials to inspect its York, Pennsylvania, plant. NIOSH is investigating whether substances such as cadmium are causing health problems for workers at the parts factory. The allegation was first made by the UAW, which represents the 1,450 employees at the plant. In April Cat twice blocked the inspection, contending that it is in the process of phasing out the use of cadmium at the York plant.

Boss Jailed

The owner of a defunct window-washing company has become the first person to be convicted of felonious contempt of a court judgement that enforces a National Labor Relations Board decision. In April U.S. District Judge Paul Matia sentenced the former owner of a window cleaning company to 18 months in prison for intentionally disobeying court orders to rehire nine union members who had been fired and to pay them \$639,773 in back wages.

Seattle Heath Workers Reject Bum Contract

Group Health Cooperative workers have rejected a two-year contract described last issue as "very unpleasant indeed." The coalition of eight unions that bargained the pact said they remained committed to trading wage and benefit concessions for provisions to "deal with the increasing threats to... job security" (such as by language allowing for continued layoffs).

Now the union bargaining coalition has dissolved, and each union is negotiating individually while workers work without contracts. The prospects, to say the least, are not promising. As our Puget Sound newsletter notes, "It won't get you far to wonder what's wrong with the unionists at Group Health. True, they haven't done a great job of making an eight-union coalition work. But in reality, no one could make such a thing work. It's as tough as doing your taxes, playing poker and singing opera — all at the same moment. While playing basketball. If there were just One Big Union, unionism would be for you and me, instead of being the property of lawyers and professional negotiators!"

Staley Wants More

Having successfully broken its union (only 146 union workers are now in the plant) with the aid of local officials, A.E. Staley is now trying to weasel out of its taxes too. In 1985, local authorities assessed Staley's Decatur plant at \$71.5 million. The company appealed, and the assessment was eventually slashed to \$25.2 million. Now Staley (which will spend some \$70 million upgrading its plant this year) wants the valuation slashed to \$10.5 million and has appealed the assessment to the state. If Staley wins, local governments would lose more

IBM Workers Fight Toxic Poisons

For many years some IBM workers suspected that the chemicals they worked with caused health problems. In IBM Endicott's building 18, many women experienced a higher than normal rate of miscarriages and birth defects. Men and women alike complained of lung ailments and skin rashes. Still others suffered with cancers and tumors. Many workers to this day point an accusing finger at the "witches brew" of chemicals they were exposed to as the cause of illness among themselves and current and former co-workers.

Unfortunately the standard answer from management was that the illness was an "individual allergy." In the late 1980s we again urged management to look into the high rate of miscarriages, especially after a report from Digital Equipment Corporation revealed similar problems. IBM, with John Hopkins University, finally did its own study to "reaffirm the safety of clean room operations." Eventually IBM's study found one suspect compound, ethylene glycol.

While IBM did move pregnant women from high risk areas, it was our belief that to protect workers the areas must be made safe for all. It became clear to us that regardless of studies or worker complaints, the bottom line was that production would not be disrupted and it would be business as usual.

But what goes around comes around. Recently a group of former employees from the IBM East Fishkill, NY plant filed suit in the State Supreme Court claiming chemicals caused the illnesses of the group and seeks damages from four chemical companies that made compounds for IBM. The companies are Union Carbide; Eastman Kodak; JT Baker Chemical company and KTI Chemical Co.

Three of the workers in the suit worked than \$450,000 a year, including \$275,000 in local school funding.

together in 1988 on a production line making chips. One died of cancer at age 24; one, now age 26, had a testicular tumor, and another now 26, is fighting cancer.

In a lengthy *New York Times* article from March 28, former IBM employees mention their concern with chemicals such as photoresist. Several of the workers in the suit said the case was a search for answers. The mother of a daughter who died from cancer said, "I think our daughter and others have been the byproduct of greed over safety. The company was more concerned with making the dollar than with the safety of their employees. They knew there were hazards but they closed their eyes to them to keep the line moving."

This lawsuit finally exposes a dirty little secret kept well hidden by IBM management, from the shop floor all the way to Corporate headquarters – that some IBM workers and their families have paid a terrible price for the "greater good" of the company.

We urge current and former employees to come forward to document what happened. If you or someone you know has had health problems you suspect were caused by working with chemicals contact: Lee Conrad, IBM Workers United, PO Box 634, Johnson City NY 13790

While we can't change the past we certainly can influence the present and future. We urge our co-workers, permanents and temps, to inform us of unsafe conditions. We recently have learned of instances where temps have been exposed to hazardous chemicals with no training from the company. Is the drive to get the product out the door worth the health of a worker? Will management ever learn? Maybe what's needed is a worker health and safety committee.

Now More Than Ever – Organize!

IBM Workers Resistor

May Day Protests Hit Austerity Plans

continued from page 1

demonstrations. The Forum unions, which include the powerful Telephone Workers Union (STRM), represent about 2 million of the CT's 12 million members. Government security forces said the demonstrations only turned out 17,000 people; the Mexico City daily *La Jornada* estimated 250,000 participants. Two marches took more than five hours to cover 22 blocks from the Monument of the Revolution to the Niños Heroes Monument and then to the city's mammoth main plaza, the Zocalo.

Alfredo Dominguez of the Authentic Workers Front, an independent union center working closely with the United Electrical workers, read a message from "Sub-Commander Marcos," leader of the rebel Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN). In Chiapas itself, 10,000 workers marched in Tuxtla Gutierrez for higher wages and against privatization, while 5,000 EZLN supporters demonstrated in San Cristobal de las Casas; 300 demonstrators seized the state radio station for 50 minutes to broadcast the EZLN May Day message.

In Peru, workers threatened to carry out a national strike to protest the government's privatization plans. In Haiti, May Day protests targeted the government's privatization plans. Ten thousand workers rallied in Santiago, demanding that Chile's minimum wage be doubled.

Uruguayan workers held marches on May 1 to reject neoliberal policies. The demonstrations in Montevideo followed a half-day strike by workers on Apr. 30 and a march through the city's poor neighborhoods in which participants drummed on pots and pans, protesting against 11.8% unemployment. Transport workers union leader Ricardo Clavijo said workers faced an "economic, social and ideological war... Today more than ever, the question is between neoliberalism and democracy."

The Venezuelan government marked May 1 by announcing further structural adjustment measures, part of an economic plan developed under pressure from the International Monetary Fund that includes a devaluation, higher fuel prices and an increase in sales taxes. May Day demonstrators burned a banner depicting a US flag — decorated with caricatures and references to the IMF, the Central Intelligence Agency and U.S. president Bill Clinton — to protest the plan. The National Guard arrested about

70 people and injured six in Cabimas, an oil-producing city located on Lake Maracaibo in the far western state of Zulia.

In Paraguay unions followed up the May 1 labor day holiday with a 48-hour general strike on May 2 and 3 to protest the government's economic policies. The four major union federations are demanding a 31 percent increase in salaries. Several union officials were arrested in an attempt to break the strike, but were released after unions threatened to shut down hydrolic electric, water and telephone services if the detainees were not freed.

excerpted from: *Weekly News Update on the Americas*, 339 Lafayette Street, New York NY 10012.

"End the System of Wage Slavery"

They marched, wave upon wave of workers, urban poor, students and others — 120,000 strong — to rally at Manila's Luneta Park on May Day. They came despite hot sun, a sea of red flags and banners.

A central theme of the rally was the need for working-class unity to fight the policies of the Ramos government. The rally was sponsored by KPUP, an alliance of rank and file union shop committee presidents which aims to unite at the factory level workers belonging to several union federations. A banner carried by one of the large factory contingents reflected this theme: "Political and ideological differences should not prevent the unity of the working class."

Tens of thousands of placards and banners raised the immediate issues of concern. Others had a more overtly anti-capitalist message, such as "Ramos — the Chairman of the Board of Capitalists" and "End the system of wage slavery."

One of the most colourful and vocal contingents was that of the street sweepers and cleaners — one of the most exploited sections of the work force. They were proudly dressed in their red and yellow uniforms, and their lead banner read: "This poverty is too much. Destroy imperialism."

Belgian Workers Pelt Socialists

When socialist members of Jean-Luc Dehaene's government tried to take to the podium at Brussels' May Day rally, they were driven back by a hail of eggs and tomatoes. Even the traditional singing of the Internationale was scarcely audible amid the cacophony of whistles and catcalls.

After imposing months of austerity schemes, Dehaene is facing a spring of discontent which could threaten the survival of his government. Pressure has been growing since February, when teachers in the French-speaking south began a series of strikes to protest against plans to cut 3,000 jobs by merging school classes. Other workers joined them: flights out of Brussels airport have been repeatedly disrupted by quickie strikes protesting government demands that workers take a 15% pay cut or surrender 1,700 jobs, while post office workers have also joined the protests.

The crisis came to a head on the eve of May Day. In a last-minute change of heart the FGTEB, the powerful socialist union federation, refused to sign a trilateral pact with employers and the government intended to put the lid on pay increases. But Dehaene ignored them, pushing the pact through parliament despite the missing signature.

His victory could yet prove a pyrrhic one. With the government faced with having to push through cuts of another 25-30 billion Belgian francs to meet its budget targets for this year, Dehaene faces a rocky

ride. The simmering discontent which left several people injured after May Day could turn to open revolt.

May Day Around World

Workers of the world united on Wednesday to celebrate May Day. Only in Turkey, where three demonstrators were killed by police, was there serious violence. Chinese police broke up a May Day demonstration and detained several people.

In Italy and Spain unions organised May Day rallies demanding a cut in unemployment. Italy's left-leaning daily *La Repubblica* saw little to celebrate, with the Italian economy slowing and unemployment high. "Work has never been so scarce, and on this May 1 great threats are hanging over the Italian economy... 1996 will certainly finish worse than it started," it said.

French unions marked May Day with separate Paris marches, while several thousand Greek workers rallied against the socialist government's austerity policy.

China marked International Workers Day with an appeal to its hard-pressed working class to knuckle down for the sake of making China an economic power for the 21st century. "The interests of some people, including some working people, will be somewhat affected and some difficulties will appear in their lives," the *People's Daily*, the Communist Party mouthpiece, said in an editorial referring to market "reforms" aimed at smashing the remnants of China's "iron ricebowl" safety net. Many workers will lose their jobs, and most will see their meager pay eroded by inflation.

Greed Free Zone

The intersection of King and Bay Streets in downtown Toronto is the centre of Canadian capital. Four of the five largest banks have their headquarters there, with the next two largest located nearby. On May Day 200 unionists, community activists and progressive religious folk gathered to turn the intersection into a "greed free zone."

Drummers, dancers on stilts, performers such as The Ragging Grannies and The Eurythmics helped to turn the heart of Canadian capital into a carnival during the height

of morning rush hour.

Cardboard buildings were erected in the intersection to create an alternative skyline for Toronto. Greed-free housing co-ops, greed-free day care centres, greed-free hospitals, greed-free credit unions and greed-free cultural centres helped to show the alternatives possible to business as usual.

At about 9:00 a.m. police came and ordered people out of the intersection. While most left, 16 people stayed behind and were arrested and charged with mischief. Among those arrested were two members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, a member of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union, two priests, a shelter worker, and a former member of parliament.

— Brian Burch

South African General Strike

A one-day general strike brought South African cities to a standstill April 30. Bus service was severely disrupted in Johannesburg, factories and businesses closed for the day, and hospitals said they would handle only emergencies. The Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) organised the strike in a bid to prevent inclusion in the new constitution of a clause allowing employers to lock out workers.

Cosatu General Secretary Sam Shilowa warned of further disruption if political parties did not agree to abandon the clause, which would give employers the right to prevent workers entering their place of work during a strike.

Cosatu also called for the removal of clauses guaranteeing the right to life and the right to ownership of property. It argued that parliament should have jurisdiction to reintroduce the death penalty and to legislate on the restitution of land to victims of forced removals during the apartheid era. The ANC government resisted calls to reinstate the death penalty, arguing that it is a barbaric practice inconsistent with human rights and democracy.

The government backed down under the pressure, softening the property rights language and removing the lock-out clause from the constitution altogether. Now unions are focussing on the lock-out clause in the Labour Relations Act of 1995.

Around Our Union

and at least one FW decided to join (re-upping after several years) in the aftermath. Boston Wobs also joined a May Day demonstration at Cambridge City Hall sponsored by the Immigrant Workers Resource Center to protest the abuse of immigrant workers by both employers and government, where your scribe heckled the vice mayor when she began prattling about good bosses and how the city welcomes business.

Salt Lake City

Salt Lake City May Day celebrations began at 2:30 in Liberty Park, with a march to the City County Building for a rally, speakers, and a free meal provided by Food Not Bombs. The celebration culminated with a benefit for IWW singer, songwriter, activist, educator and agitator U. Utah Phillips featuring local rock bands.

Chicago Celebrates May Day

Chicago Wobs celebrated May Day with a video party and open mike at a local coffeehouse. A few were able to make a lunch-time ceremony two days later placing a plaque at the site of the Haymarket police riot and a May 4th picnic at the Haymarket Monument in Waldheim Cemetery.



Ever wonder why wages keep falling?

Because employers like Gannett keep busting unions!

Gannett and Knight-Ridder, the two media giants that own the *Detroit News* and *Free Press*, forced 2,500 workers out on strike because they want bigger profits, fewer workers, lower wages and no unions.

The AFL-CIO urges workers to support the Detroit strikers, by refusing to buy Gannett's flagship paper, *USA Today*. AFL-CIO unions are urging distributors to stop selling *USA Today*, and businesses are being asked to stop advertising in *USA Today*.

BOYCOTT
USA TODAY

Clinton's Mob Pal

CounterPunch reports that Laborers President Arthur Coia, who struck a deal with the feds in February to avoid a racketeering prosecution of his mob-ridden union, has close ties to the Clinton administration. The Laborers have some 700,000 members, mostly in construction and hospitals, and have long been closely tied to organized crime. The only time a dissident faction challenged Laborers officials, in 1981, their representatives were brutally beaten on the convention floor.

A federal investigation concluded that Coia has long been "associated with and been controlled by organized crime figures" and helped loot union funds in the 1980s. Investigators recommended the union be placed in a trusteeship similar to that imposed on the Teamsters.

Instead, prosecutors struck a deal leaving Coia in charge of the union in exchange for a promise to hold elections for two top union offices. Chris White, an Alaska bus driver who was among those beaten at the 1981 convention, says the settlement allows for only "token democracy." Coia also suspended some officers with the most egregious mob ties in an effort to clean up his union's image, and hired an inspector general to look into corruption charges.

Coia has long had close ties to the Clinton administration. His union loaned \$100,000 to the Clinton inauguration and is one of the Democratic Party's top ten donors. Coia was practically alone in supporting NAFTA, and co-chaired a 1994 Clinton fund-raising dinner that raised \$3.5 million. Coia has also donated funds to Clinton's legal defense fund and gave Clinton a golf club with the presidential seal built into the base. And one week before the feds signed their deal with Coia, Hillary Clinton spoke at a Laborers' conference in Florida.

B.C. 'Labor Party' Hits Union Rights

British Columbia's governing New Democratic Party has approved legislation giving the government the power to halt labor disputes by forcing workers to submit to binding arbitration. The measure is reportedly aimed at blocking a politically embarrassing strike in the Surrey school district. "I won't tolerate a strike in education or health care during an election campaign," said Premier Glen Clark.

Opposition parties attacked the measure as anti-democratic, while B.C. Federation of Labor head Ken Georgetti said he was perplexed by the government's action, which he criticized as unwarranted interference in the collective bargaining process. "It doesn't matter which government it is... If they had consulted with us we would have told them not to do it."

May Day Strike Ties Up California Ports

The U.S.'s largest port complex was tied up May 1 as more than 5,000 truckers struck to demand an end to the gyppo system in which drivers are treated as "independent contractors" and forced to spend hours of unpaid labor waiting at the docks.

The ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach were operating at only about a fifth of capacity. In an effort to circumvent their "independent" status, drivers have joined a union and signed with a leasing company that promises to pay truckers \$25 an hour. The company would double charges to shippers, who claim they would be driven from the port. The May Day strike follows months of bitter complaints by truckers that shippers were pressuring them to cut rates on the 25-mile hauls from Los Angeles harbor to rail terminals near the center of the city.

St. Louis Nursing Home Wildcat

The labor unrest which has affected the health care industry in St. Louis recently spread to suburban St. Charles, Missouri, where aides at a nursing home staged a wildcat strike. The striking aides told the press that not only were they grossly underpaid, but they were also being denied medical supplies needed to care for the residents.

In St. Louis itself, agitation now centers around Deaconess Hospital, which has conducted massive layoffs as part of its downsizing program. Laid-off workers have appeared outside the hospital handing out leaflets demanding a union. Adding fuel to the fire was the recent decision by the cartel of Barnes, Jewish and Christian hospitals to issue new plastic name tags that don't include workers' titles.

This infuriated many registered nurses. "I worked my butt off in nursing school to get an 'RN' after my name. Now these bastards won't even let the patients know I'm qualified to care for them!" one angry nurse said at a union meeting. The change in name tags is symbolic of de-staffing and de-skilling policies which the hospitals have long pursued. In response, nurses are beginning to join other hospital workers in demanding union representation.

Two main organizations have emerged out of the labor troubles. One is the Missouri Nurses Association, or MONA. MONA has long existed as a professional organization for R.N.s, and now seeks to style itself as a craft union for nurses only. Many health care workers have come to view MONA as pro-management designed to divide skilled from "unskilled" health care workers. The second organization is the American Association of Health Care Professions, which seeks to unite all health care workers.

In March AAHCP organizers Sharon Penrod and Mike O'Neil (both registered nurses) addressed the IWW's Common Grounds coffeehouse in South St. Louis. They stressed that they were for "quality jobs for quality health care" and charged that the hospital bosses were destroying health care services under pressure from the big HMOs. AAHCP is in the process of affiliating with the Service Employees International Union.

Health care is one of the largest industries in the St. Louis area. One out of ten employed St. Louisans is a health care worker, and their unionization would be a powerful victory for the labor movement.

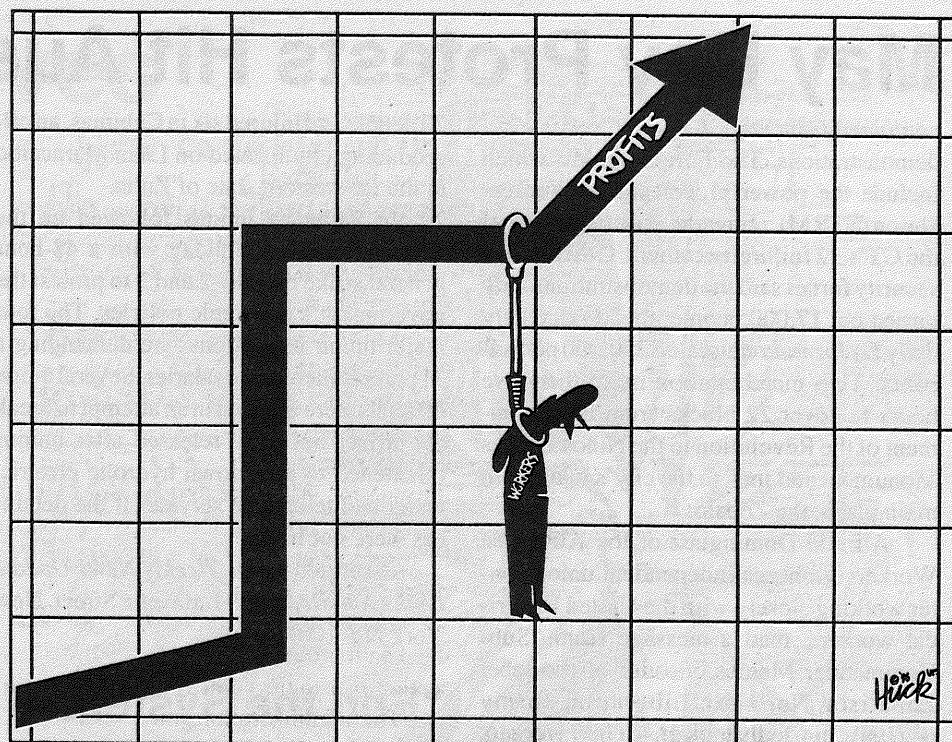
— Robert G. Rice

California Teaching Assistants to Strike

Student teaching and research workers at the University of California at Berkeley have voted overwhelmingly to strike this Fall. TAs and RAs, members of the Association of Graduate Student Employees/United Auto Workers, Local 2165, are seeking union recognition.

"The vote sends a resounding notice to the University: recognize our union or we will strike," said Lily Khadjavi, a Teaching Assistant from the math department. "We are demanding that the university recognize our democratic right to come together as a union and participate in decisions affecting our lives," she noted. "We are effectively the backbone of this university — we teach the classes and conduct the research that makes UC a world-renowned institution."

The strike authorization is part of a system-wide organizing drive that seeks to pressure UC administrators to recognize each campus union and bargain over working conditions. A majority of student employees at six campuses — over 10,000 all together — have authorized the union to represent them.



Industrial Unionism is the Way

unions are planning a massive protest during Yale's May 27 graduation ceremonies. Yale officials have condemned plans to disrupt the ceremonies, and threatened to retaliate against the unions if they proceed with their plans. The unions plan to resume their intermittent strikes this fall unless the University begins good-faith negotiations and abandons its effort to force Yale workers into low-wage, no-benefit, part-time jobs.

Nearly half of Yale's workforce is unionized, though administrators refuse to recognize the Graduate Employees and Student Organization, which represents teaching assistants. And workers have responded to the University's efforts to transform their jobs into low-paid "temporary" jobs by organizing. In late April, "casual" and "on-call" workers (paid far less than regular workers doing the same work, and who receive no benefits) voted to join the union despite Yale's unsuccessful effort to convince the National Labor Relations Board that they weren't workers.

This is a step in the right direction. As more workers organize, they increase their industrial power by building the means for truly effective united action. But instead, Yale's unions are following trade unionism's traditional divide-and-fall strategy, taking on the University one at a time.

GESO was first to take a dive, mounting a grade strike last December that gradually crumbled under the threat of mass firings and blacklisting. In February the union representing secretaries and professional workers struck for four weeks. In March service and maintenance workers took their four-week turn on the picket line.

Ironically, all three striking unions are members of the Federation of [Yale] University Employees, and the two unions which struck earlier this year are both locals of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees union (HERE). Yet in what union leaders describe as an "innovative strategy," the unions crossed each other's picketlines while contributing to strike relief funds and announced in advance how long they would be out. (Teachers and other non-unionized workers also scabbed, as did delivery workers.) This enabled management scabs to minimize disruption and reduced the numbers needed to maintain operations.

But rather than experiment with these new-fangled strategies about how to fight Yale's union-busting without causing the bosses serious hardship, Yale workers would do better to consider industrial unionism. The IWW has always insisted that all workers on the same job belong in the same union, and need to fight (and win) together. Dividing into a myriad of craft-based unions invites disharmony and defeat.

A strike is a weapon in the class war, one of the heaviest weapons in our arsenal.

It is worse than useless to call strikes and then to proceed to wage them in a partial, half-hearted manner. To be effective, a strike needs to tie up the employer and make it impossible to continue business as usual. That means that all workers need to strike together, rather than scurrying across each other's picketlines and helping the bosses starve strikers out. It means that workers (and their unions) need to honor the oft-quoted (and ignored) maxim: "An Injury to One Is An Injury to All."

When the University set out to crush its teaching assistants, Yale workers should have responded by shutting down the campus. When the clerical workers struck, the teaching assistants and maintenance workers should have struck with them. (Of course, the teaching assistants were no longer in a position to do so, having been crushed while their fellow unionists stood by.) We can not afford labor "leaders" who counsel conciliation and union scabbery, nor can we afford a craft unionism that was obsolete a hundred years ago.

But there is no reason to give up. Standing together the unions (even representing less than half of the Yale's workers, as they do) have enough power to shut the university down. In the long run, Yale workers — like all workers — must choose whether they wish to continue fighting the bosses hobbled, with their hands tied behind their backs, or whether they are going to build industrial unions capable of wielding workers' power efficiently and effectively.

Industrial Unionism, Direct Action and Industrial Solidarity are the key. With them we can defeat any employer. Without them, we must settle for whatever crumbs fall our way. This is why the Industrial Workers of the World was formed, and why we will not rest until the working class is organized industrially into One Big Union capable of taking on the bosses and winning.

X331117

Southam unions form common front

Unions representing 5,000 employees at daily newspapers owned by Canadian publisher Southam Inc. have formed a council to co-ordinate bargaining strategy. "It has been a long time coming," Peter Murdoch of the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union said. The company is increasingly taking a hard line in contract negotiations, and layoffs are putting enormous stress on staff.

The company lost \$53.4 million last year and announced plans this winter to chop 750 positions at its 18 daily papers, 15 of which are unionized. Southam just completed the purchase of another daily, the *St. Catharines (Ont.) Standard*.

Scissorbills of the Month

Mitsubishi Motor Manufacturing of America based 2,700 workers and managers from its Normal, Illinois, plant to Chicago to protest outside the offices of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, which has brought suit against the automaker for subjecting hundreds of women workers to groping, insults and demands from male co-workers and supervisors for sex. Mitsubishi offered workers a full day's pay, free lunch and transportation to join the protest; 1,300 workers who refused were required to work the day.

While national UAW officials criticized Mitsubishi's efforts to pressure workers into demonstrating, UAW local officials supported the company. The Mitsubishi "union" local has bought into a series of cooperation schemes, and is apparently unable even to conceive of fighting for workers' interests any longer. Mitsubishi's management reportedly took male employees to live sex shows during training sessions and said women did not belong in factories. So they tried to run them out while "union" officials turned a blind eye.

"We'll Shut You Down Like Paris"

Some 40,000 workers walked off their jobs in southern Ontario April 19, joining a series of mass protests against the provincial government's budget cuts. Many firms were shut down, along with bus service, post offices and liquor stores. Exams at Waterloo's two universities were postponed.

More than 10,000 government workers received dismissal notices in the week leading up to the strike, underscoring the weakness of a contract recently signed by public employees to end their strike.

The mood at the Kitchener rally was upbeat as workers chanted: "Hey Witmer, Hey Harris, We'll Shut You Down Like Paris." A speaker calling for a province-wide general strike received the biggest cheers, though union leaders have thus far resisted the proposal.

Sabotage

Someone took a bolt cutter to automated casting equipment that will cost 150 Decatur, Ill., workers their jobs. Wagner Castings management says they suffered \$50,000 in damage to a \$14 million system that will displace 150 of 650 workers at the plant. United Paperworkers Local 7728, which represents workers at the plant, has promised to help search out the culprit.

Wagner President James Mason condemned the sabotage as "senseless and thoughtless." Indeed, such isolated, individual acts have no possibility of saving jobs in the long run, even if they do lead to more jobs for security guards and stool pigeons in the short term. If we want to stop technological displacement, we need to organize for shorter hours — so that workers can reap the benefits, rather than being thrown onto the industrial scrapheap so that useless parasites can grow even richer.

Carey Censured

Teamsters President Ron Carey has been censured by the government-appointed election officer for using union funds to support his re-election campaign. According to the January/February issue of the *Teamster*, Carey has been ordered to reimburse the union for the cost of several questions aimed at gathering information useful to his re-election effort. Carey was also ordered to sign a statement pledging: "I will not use union funds or other things of value, including the IBT Communications Department, directly or indirectly, to promote my candidacy or the candidacy of any individual on the Ron Carey slate."

CNT's Conflict at University of Granada

The ongoing struggle by the University section of the CNT of Granada has begun to yield positive results. Granada's CNT as a whole and the regional syndicates and confederations have shown with their unconditional support how the solidarity and muscle of direct action are efficient weapons for the working class.

After the university's refusal to recognize the rights of the CNT and repression against office workers delegate Fernando Dorado (suspended without pay), the CNT teacher's union organized a campaign of information. The other unions represented at the college (CCOO, UGT, JSO independientes, CIPLU, CSIF and CGT) supported Dorado in writing — later we'll see how far they keep their support — and local dailies turned their letters to the editor section over to the controversy.

The administration joined the propaganda war, and warned workers personally that "it has taken notice of such and such act of support." In the middle of the electoral campaign IU (Izquierda Unida, left political parties coalition T.N.) added its support of Fernando Dorado. But the situation didn't change. The Administration holds fast: we must move on to action.

The unions agreed to a demonstration in front of the Rector's building (Hospital Real). CNT and CGT call for a meeting for

that time in order to protect those assembled from possible reprisals.

About 50 people from CNT, CIPLU and CGT turned out for the demonstration and went to the red hall (anteroom to the Rector's office) to deliver petitions. Once in the red hall, CNT members said they would stay until they saw the Rector. They display a large banner outside with the slogan "Against Syndical repression and the Rector's terrorism: Direct Action." Windows and rooms are decorated with red and black flags and twenty-some comrades take over the noble room intently watched by an Immaculate Conception, a Christ by Malleu, the attendees to the funeral of Felipe el Hermoso and dozens of serious and grave faces belonging to previous Rectors of such a rank institution.

Several hours later Vicerector Jose Luis Gonzalez appeared, visibly upset. He offered an interview with the Rector for the following day, but the CNT announced their intent to remain there until the meeting takes place and so it happens. When morning arrived (along with donated coffee and rolls smuggled past a police guard) the Rector refused to see the comrades. They are told that the occupation is a crime, that the banner is slanderous and that he gives in not an inch. Neither do the demonstrators.

By now all of Granada knows about the

lock-in through the press and the radio. The siege hardens and the demonstrators are told that from now on nobody will be able to enter or exit the red hall. They are also threatened with eviction. The surveillance by the rent-a-cops is fooled several times, and a large amount of food and reading material is secured. In the afternoon several dozen CNT militants gathered outside the building with flags and banners. They came inside to meet with the comrades locked in, now almost under siege, before continuing their demonstration outside. The occupiers spent a second night in the red hall.

As the CNT was preparing to relieve the occupiers with a new shift, the Rector suddenly agreed to meet the CNT. After an hour-and-a-half meeting, he agreed to recognize the union, end any harassment of union supporters, and investigate Fernando Dorado's case.

translated by Luis J. Prat

CNT Wins Reinstatement of Delegate at Air Iberia

The CNT has won a dispute with Iberia Airlines, after a campaign of demonstrations, telegrams and other actions that involved workers from more than 20 countries. The airline had suspended a Madrid CNT-AIT delegate for three weeks in an attempt to prevent the union from gaining a foothold in the facility.

Shell Oil: Bleeding Ogoniland

Shell Oil has had a history of exploitation and carelessness toward oppressed people and their land. Major boycotts against Shell have been urged in the past; one of the biggest being the boycott against Shell because of their support of South African apartheid. Royal Dutch Shell's history of unacceptable business behavior, then, is remembered by many people. However, behind the scenes Shell Oil has been more irresponsible than many people know. Recently, Shell's carelessness was revealed, though, when the company financed the murder of Ogoniland environmentalist and human rights advocate, Ken Saro-Wiwa.

In 1958 Shell Oil first struck oil on Ogoni lands in southeastern Nigeria. At this time the land of the Ogoni people was clean and provided a healthy source of food and water. To this day Ogoni people still depend on their natural resources. The land and fish, which the 500,000 Ogoni people survive off of is now in turmoil, however. Much of the Ogoni farming land has been destroyed by large oil spills and leaks, and the water which they fish from is also polluted. Many Ogoni crops have been destroyed by Shell Oil, and some parts of the land have giant oil patches half a mile in diameter.

Throughout the years in which Shell Oil has profited off of the oil of Nigeria enormous revenue has been generated for the company, yet the workers and people of Ogoni have only felt the exploitation inherent in these profits. According to one analyst, Shell's profits from Ogoni oil gross about \$170 to \$190 million annually. These profits are grossly maldistributed, and the damaged land and suffering people of Ogoni see none of it.

To counter the problems caused by the Royal Dutch Shell Company, as well as build solidarity for human rights, Ken Saro-Wiwa founded the Movement for Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP) in 1990. MOSOP began a campaign in Ogoni to clean up oil spills, gain financial compensation for ecological damages, build civil rights unity, and begin working to clean up the air which is constantly poisoned by gas flaring.

In December 1992, the movement demanded \$10 billion to pay for environmental damages and to help clean up oil spills.

Shell Oil declined to pay; instead setting up a commission to study the problem.

More practically, Shell set out to stop the environmental movement which was threatening its profits. In November 1995, Shell hired the Nigerian mobile police to stop, by any means necessary, the MOSOP protesters. The mobile police, known for their excessive violence, attacked Ogoni environmentalists, human rights activists and MOSOP supporters. The mobile police had orders to begin "wasting operations and wasting Ogoni leaders who are especially vocal individuals" (as quoted in *Z Magazine*, Feb. 1996). These plans were carried out and paid for by Shell Oil, who financed transportation, oil field guards and pay bonuses for some troops.

The military pressure financed by Shell to crush Ogoni resistance has been devastating. Owens Saro-Wiwa, Ken's brother, estimates that the attacks largely destroyed about 30 Ogoni villages, killing some 2,000 people. And the Nigerian dictatorship imprisoned Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other MOSOP supporters: Varibor Bera, Daniel Gbokoo, Paul Levura, Barinem Kiobel, Felix Nuata, Nordu Eawo, John Kpuinen, and Saturday Dobee.

Ignoring international protest, Ken Saro-Wiwa was sentenced to death and killed after being found guilty of inciting a riot which supposedly led to the murder of four government chiefs and the destruction of Shell property. Two key witnesses admitted that they were bribed to fabricate evidence.

Royal Dutch Shell Company refuses to take blame for the killing, although they

financed it. Shell officials have even claimed they didn't plan on this sort of violence. Yet, many people have been murdered courtesy of Shell Oil and nothing has been done to prevent this.

Currently, 18 more people in Ogoniland are facing possible execution because of their political activity in opposition to Shell Oil's exploitative business and activities. Although other oil companies, such as Chevron, were also protested against because of their ecologically destructive practices in Ogoni, it is Shell Oil and the Nigerian government who are responsible for the greatest damages and murder of Ogoni.

Unless pressure is increased, the 18 will also be killed and the exploitation of Ogoniland and the people upon it will continue to suffer unjustifiable hardships. In response to this situation, concerned people should take action against Shell Oil in the United States.

Shell Oil can only be influenced by an economic backlash. To make sure this happens concerned activists can do what is necessary to influence Shell, such as boycotting Shell Oil or setting up demonstrations and protests in front of Shell Gas stations and offices. Also, activists can call Shell Oil and let them know that the boycott has begun and will continue *at least* until Ogoniland is no longer negatively affected by Shell Oil: 212/261-5640 or 713/241-4044.

Shell's Oil becomes a more vile red with every ounce of blood they spill. The Ogoni people need your help.

— Jason Justice

Subscribe Today

Subscriptions are \$15 per year (12 issues)

Enclosed: ☐ \$15, 1 year ☐ \$_____ donation to the IW Sustaining Fund
☐ \$15, bundle of 5, 6 months (ask for special IWW member rates)

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State/Prov _____ Post Code _____

Send Subscriptions, Renewals and Bundle Requests to:
 Industrial Worker Distribution, 103 W Michigan, Ypsilanti MI 48197

Fingerprint Politicians, Not the Poor

On May 13th the Human Services Committee of Metro Toronto Council voted on a proposal that could see every person on welfare fingerprinted. The Ontario Coalition Against Poverty is confronting these politicians who think unemployment is a crime and that people on welfare should be treated like criminals.

If councillors think the unemployed should be fingerprinted, then we will go down to Metro Hall to fingerprint them. Councillors who on top of trying to fingerprint every welfare recipient are attempting to eliminate the \$3.75/day personal needs allowance the homeless get; while they continue to receive their lavish salaries, tax-free allowances and chauffeur-driven limousines.

— Ken Patience

Editor's Notebook...

There are some interesting contrasts between the IWW's unflinching class-conscious revolutionism (even after carefully cutting the most revolutionary verses) and the CP's timid pro-Clintonism. Thus, their tepid call for a six-hour day, introducing an excerpt from the IWW classic, "The Four-Hour Day." They complain that owners do not equitably share the wealth we produce, while the Songbook exhorts us to "Dump the Bosses Off Your Back."

Elsewhere in that issue, these hacks claim the Haymarket Martyrs were victims of an attack on the Knights of Labor, feature a huge May Day greeting ad calling on workers to elect more Democrats to Congress, and run an op-ed piece by one Democrat already there. With a "communist" press

Reader's Soapbox...

elite corporations. The argument for rebel theft is basically that employers steal from workers, privileged sectors take from the less fortunate, so it is reasonable that workers and less privileged classes take back through rebel theft. This method of action is not a juvenile game, but is, instead, a serious means of modern expropriation. Logically, every time you steal from work you're taking back a piece of labor or time robbed of workers by employers. It means employee thieves are not just robbers, but working-class avengers.

Rebel theft, then, in the work place, has multiple purposes. One is to expropriate the labor and time robbed from the worker. The second is to economically backlash the employer. The third is to empower the working class. The first is, now, understood; we expropriate our labor through employee theft to accommodate for low wages. The second weakens the strength of the business elite by causing financial damage. Employee theft in the United States cause over \$40 billion in losses to elite industries annually, a loss that harms employers but benefits employee thieves. And the third aim is to empower workers by economically enhancing destitute laborers. Workers, for instance, that have sufficiently robbed their work place of merchandise and cash gain immediate leverage against employers. Workers can, for instance, go on strike and outlast employers by selling stolen merchandise. The money grossed by selling stolen product can then be used to accommodate for wages lost during the strike and to survive. The strike is less likely to crumble because workers have some form of stability and strikers have a greater chance of winning.

These ideas are not taken seriously. Especially if you, as have I, urge Wobblies to steal from work to enhance our union. These ideas are either discarded as childish or rejected in fear of consequences. The fear of consequences appears to be a logical reason to reject theft. As noted by Fellow Worker Gary Hicks, in the May issue of the *Industrial Worker*, those in power may wish to use the issue of rebel theft as an excuse to bust or frame union members. The Black Panthers were mentioned and future fears about busting the GEB or the GST with

like this, who needs a boss press?

Good News

A Merrill Lynch financial newsletter found a smidgeon of hope amidst the gloomy economic statistics last March. While February employment surged and unemployment fell (that's the bad news), "the only good news was a 0.1% decline in hourly wages." How about organizing so we can lay the bosses off, and let them enjoy the benefits of joblessness and hunger?

Living to Work?

"Landing a good job is our goal in life." That's how one of my students opened her final paper. (As there's no money in exhorting my fellow workers to dump the bosses off our backs, I pay my bills by teaching.) She went on to say that new workers have to

frame-up charges about employee theft were also considered. Supposedly, I have somehow forgotten about the history of the Black Panthers and the consequences of our actions. Even though I own "Panthers" because I shoplifted it from Blockbuster (and they ordered more) I still seem to flunk radical history. Realistically, however, I am very aware of the consequences of rebel actions and organizations and I am all too aware of the consequences of rebel theft. I work with them daily. Confronting authority is not something you forget, it's something you learn how to do successfully.

The beauty of rebel theft rests in its invincibility. Employee theft is the result of employer theft, it has not gone away and will remain a "problem" so long as capitalism continues. Employee theft essentially cannot be broken; it is a form of rebellion which is clandestine. While individuals can be punished, the essence of employee theft cannot be crushed. It's not like a union, where important leaders can be picked out and arrested and the union falls apart; instead the solidarity (and there is solidarity) among employee thieves can never be undermined — it is not centralized and it is always dealt with on an individual basis. These individuals, in fact, suffer very meager consequences. Employers and loss prevention rely almost 100 percent on self incrimination via fear tactics when confronting suspected employee thieves. In other words, unless employees admit to stealing, they almost always walk away free. Those who are busted face loss of jobs, seldom anything more. This is completely different than anything that had to do with the Black Panthers. If rebel theft had been the means which the Panthers chose to use to fund their operations there would have been an endless supply of money coming in from "unknown" sources, and untraceable sources to the organization as a whole.

There is an obvious irony in certain criticisms about rebel theft that needs to be addressed. While this union seems to have no problem advocating and publicly endorsing sabotage, through IWW books such as *How To Fire Your Boss* [the IWW has published no book by this title, ed.], certain members consider employee theft a "juvenile prank." It is not considered juvenile,

"love what they are doing" (or at least put on a good show for the masters), work hard, and be a team player.

Reminds me of the day I interviewed for a typesetting job, only to be told that it paid \$4.50 an hour (not a living wage even then) and that the boss wanted someone who was "enthusiastic" about the work. I asked if he wanted a cheerleader or a typesetter, and didn't get the job — not that I would have taken it anyway. Since I wasn't born rich, I have to work for a living. Most of my students are in the same boat.

But to make work our goal in life somehow seems obscene. Hard times feed these miserably reduced aspirants, of course. But so does the lack of a visible alternative — a vision of the decent life we all could lead if we just got organized to demand it. [JB]

however, to destroy workplace machinery, even though the purpose of sabotage is to engage in "time theft" and *steal* back time — a method of theft considered just as big of a problem as other forms of employee theft. In fact, if you read anti-employee theft literature you'll find that time theft, created through such acts as sabotage, is lumped right in with all forms of employee theft. According to Edwin Bliss and Isamu Aoki in their book *Are Your Employees Stealing You Blind?*, the theft of time "costs American business \$170 billion per year." These are losses due, in part, to a form of employee theft known as sabotage; a fully endorsed and acceptable form of employee theft, unlike its childish sister, rebel theft, which no serious and mature adult would partake in. Employee theft is not just about stealing product, it's about expropriation in all forms.

These issues about rebel theft need to be seriously considered. The irony inherent in our potential opposition needs to be logically pondered. While I am by no means advocating that the IWW adopt the tactics of rebel theft officially, nor am I stating that the IWW currently uses any form of rebel theft, I am simply urging those who have the means to use them wisely. In a time when employees are becoming more and more expendable, and striking less and less effective, workers must look toward alternative sources of empowerment and vengeance. Rebel theft offers this collective power, and it can be ridiculed, ignored, or rejected, or it can be utilized on a furtive and unofficial basis and workers can experience the empowerment and leverage available in the immediate future.

LoneWolff Prometheus

Un-Thinking Rebel Theft

First the bottom line. I stand by my previous article.

It is true that worker rebellion has never been without criticism. We can depend upon the bourgeoisie to do it all the time. They often are our best Marxists. They wield both the weapon of criticism and are somewhat experienced with the criticism of the weapon. Within our ranks, the strategies and tactics of worker rebellion, to say nothing of workers' revolution, the historical process of taking this present order *out*, are healthy

Fighting the World Bank: A Comic

The World Bank: A Tale of Power, Plunder and Resistance, by Alec Dubro and Mike Konopacki. Published by Public Services International (B.P. 9, F-01211 Ferney-Voltaire Cedex, France), \$2.95 from IWW Literature Department.

The World Bank comic book is like no other this reviewer has picked up before — it is both deliberately political *and* clearly drawn.

Book Review

The artist, FW Mike Konopacki, dazzles the reader with his graphic contrasts between financiers and workers, all the while rising above the tedious messy, blood-drenched graphics of horror (save a few pat portrayls of state violence).

For example, FW Konopacki effectively illustrates that familiar capitalist ailment of selective sight with a blindingly dark pair of World Bank-logo shaped glasses. World Bank officials sport their shades at their earliest conveniences to stave off bouts of conscience and reality — offering a presentation only slightly more mystified than the real world. FW Konopacki also comically exposes the gibberish of capital; bankers at a banquet speak only in currencies, blabbering "\$\$\$\$ Fr ££ Dm" at each others' blank faces.

topics for discussion. Rebel Theft is a tactic that does nothing to forward the process of workers' revolution. It does even less so when raised to the level of strategy, as comrade Prometheus has chosen to do.

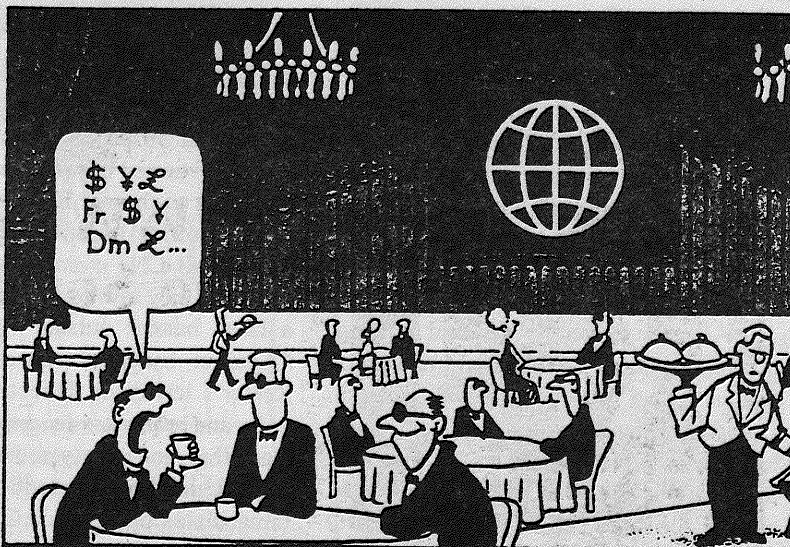
Rebel Theft encompasses new methods? Stealing? Come now! Yes it is true that workers are morally justified in taking back some of what they've worked hard for. Popular culture — from the ante-bellum slave adage "roast pig is good, especially when stolen" to Johnny Cash's famous song "One Piece At A Time" — has reflected this moral sentiment among both chattel and wage slaves. But to equate this with collective expropriation is not the way to go. *Collective expropriation is a revolutionary act, not to be confused with acts of rebellion, whether individual or in groups.* This is not to trash rebellion. But rebellion that does not develop into a revolutionary process is a dead end. And Rebel Theft is precisely a tactic which will lead to such dead ends.

Workers can outlast bosses during a strike by selling stolen merchandise? Let's see. This means that the recent strike of auto workers at General Motors in Dayton could have held even more solid if workers at that plant, and the hundred-odd other plants, could have sold stolen cars and parts of cars to — whom? The auto workers should have become a proletarian chop shop? And what market is available for stolen airplanes the next time the flight attendants go out? This might work in a small company like, say, a pub (if it's not a chain like O'Houlihan's) or a xerox shop. But in the basic industries of capitalism? I don't think so. And we need to be about organizing the big ones as our primary organizing thrust. Rebel Theft simply does not measure up, as a tactic, to the requirements of collective action. And under certain conditions, especially those set up by the police, such wannabe tactics can wreck us.

The beauty of Rebel Theft rests in its invincibility? Please run that one by people of our class who have done time for having harbored variations on such thought!

One final note. I retract the term Custerism used in my article. It implies that workers are the U.S. Cavalry and that the bosses are Lakota Sioux.

Gary Hicks X344880



detail from *The World Bank*

Alec Dubro joins FW Konopacki on the writing, and this too shines. As a worker activist in India sums up, "As long as we fight back there is hope!" — the comic neatly joins the stark immediacy of resistance with the seemingly less material reality of 'building the new society within the shell of the old.'

Thankfully, workers — *not* bankers — are the main activists in the comic. Workers demonstrate, strike, and otherwise organize in our interests of self-determination and justice. This is a relief to this reviewer, who has been distressed at the often academicized/sanitized direction of anti-World Bank campaigns. In *World Bank*, we know our problems and our strategies of fighting for our solutions. FW Konopacki and Dubro stray from this only once, in their introduction, when they credit the World Bank with "the resources to light the way toward human happiness" — a petty distraction from the comic's general tone and our overall task of asserting our own resources and resourcefulness.

— Chris Vance

World's Wasted Wealth

The World's Wasted Wealth 2 by J.W. Smith, Institute for Economic Democracy (POB 303, Cambria CA 93428), \$17.95.

This tome contains a wealth of documentation on the waste intrinsic to this capitalist economic order, of the grinding poverty it imposes on the so-called developing world, and of the vast human despair it leaves in its wake. Unfortunately, it suffers from the author's fondness for authoritarian measures (he sees Napoleon as a partisan of "the long march to economic freedom," for example) and his fondness for time-and-motion regimes (he suggests, for example, that teachers be replaced by computers and video tapes). It also meanders over far too much territory, making for a rather painful read.

There is more than enough wealth in this world of ours to provide a very decent life for ever person on this planet, Smith shows, but instead of meeting human needs we squander our labor supporting parasites, building throw-away products, and building weapons to keep our fellow workers terrorized. One of the strongest sections of the book is Smith's dissection of the "intellectual property" system whereby corporations (and a handful of lucky individuals) are enabled to reap huge profits off social progress. But for every telling statistic, we get a useless panacea — such as a proposal to reform capitalism by creating a system of "honest money."

Much of the work we do is indeed wasted, as Smith argues, and the social wealth we create is squandered in ways that are positively harmful. Smith's book can serve as a handy compendium of data about this waste, but his "solutions" would bring us no closer to the just, democratic society he claims to advocate. [JB]

Books for Rebel Workers

THE LITTLE RED SONG BOOK



IWW Songbook International Edition



Rebel Voices: An IWW Anthology.

edited by Joyce Kornbluh. Collection of articles, cartoons, songs & poetry from the IWW press. \$22

One Big Union.

by IWW. The basic introduction to the structure and methods of the Industrial Workers of the World. \$2

The General Strike.

Ralph Chaplin's musical version of the IWW Preamble notes "without our brain and muscle not a single wheel can turn." He develops that idea in this essay. \$2

Labor Law for the Rank & Filer.

by Staughton Lynd. Revised and updated, this classic self-help manual is subtitled: "building solidarity while staying clear of the law." \$7

IWW Buttons

Fire Your Boss! \$1.

Black Cat/Direct Action, \$1.

IWW Globe circled by motto: "Labor is Entitled to All it Creates." Black & Red, \$1.50.

IWW Little Red Songbook

(36th Edition)

Songs to Fan the Flames of Discontent

103 labor songs from around the world, with music and chords. Includes classics and new songs by Billy Bragg, Anne Feeney, Leslie Fish, Joe Hill, Charlie King, Phil Ochs, Utah Phillips, Bernice Reagon, and many more.

Classics include: Solidarity Forever; Dump The Bosses Off Your Back; Hallelujah, I'm A Bum; The Preacher and the Slave; There Is Power in a Union; Popular Wobbly. New to the songbook are: Ella's Song, Legal - Illegal; If It Weren't For the Union; A Las Barricadas; Links on the Chain; Scabs; Rise Again. \$10

Two cassettes feature these songs, sung by Wobbly musicians...

Rebel Voices.

19 songs of the IWW sung by IU 630 Wobs including Utah Phillips, Faith Petric, Fred Holstein, Kathy Taylor & more. Tape \$10.

We Have Fed You All for 1,000 Years.

Utah Phillips sings 18 Wobbly songs before a live Vancouver audience. Tape \$10.

Labor History

Fellow Worker: The Life of Fred Thompson. Compiled by D. Roediger.

Autobiographical reflections and philosophy from a veteran Wobbly who bridged the generations. \$10

The Great Bisbee Deportation of July 12, 1917

compiled by Rob Hanson. \$2.50

Solidarity Forever—An oral history of the IWW. Steward Bird, Dan Georgakas & Deborah Shaffer, eds.

A compilation of interviews with former and veteran Wobblies. Badly transcribed, but interesting reading. \$11

Memoirs of a Wobbly.

by Henry McGuckin.

The memoirs of a rambling Wobbly organizer of the 1910s. How they hoboed, organized and lived. Free speech fights and "fanning the flames of discontent." \$5

Rebel Girl, the autobiography of Elizabeth Gurley Flynn. \$9.95.

Working the Waterfront.

Wobbly longshoreman Gilbert Mers tells of 42 years on the Texas waterfront as a rank-and-file radical. Workers' history as it should be told. Hardcover: \$20

The Centralia Tragedy of 1919: Elmer Smith and the Wobblies by Tom Copeland. \$17.50.

The American Labor Movement: A New Beginning. by Sam Dolgoff.

A veteran IWW organizer traces the history of labor militance and offers his vision for building a new, radical, rank-and-file labor movement. \$5

Hard Rock Epic, Western Miners and the Industrial Revolution, 1860-1910 by Mark Wyman, \$13.

Strike! by Jeremy Brecher.

A history of U.S. workers' struggle from workers' point of view. Argues class upsurges are based in everyday live and rank & file initiative. \$15

Rise and Repression of Radical Labor. by Daniel Fusfeld.

A short history of the U.S. movement from the 1877 strikes through the 1918 red scare trials, deportations and murders. \$5

Sacco and Vanzetti, The Anarchist Background. by Paul Avrich. hardcover, 265 pages, \$15.

Beyond the Martyrs, A Social History of Chicago's Anarchists, 1870-1900. by Bruce C. Nelson.

A social history of Chicago's anarchists & socialists of the period. \$10.

The Revolution Within The Revolution, Workers' Control in Rural Portugal. by Nancy Barneo.

Compelling account of a resurgent, revolutionary agrarian movement during "The Revolution of the Carnations" and its aftermath, \$15.

Emma Goldman in Exile, From the Russian Revolution to the Spanish Civil War by Alice Wexler, \$14.

Year One of the Russian Revolution by Victor Serge, \$12.

The Union League Movement in the Deep South by Michael Fitzgerald, \$12.

Plain Folk in the New South: Social Change and Cultural Persistence, 1880-1915 by I.A. Newby, \$10.

Where the Sun Never Shines: A History of America's Bloody Coal Industry by Priscilla Long. \$10.00.

Let Us Now Praise Famous Men by Eward Agee & Walker Evans. Text and photos of 1930s workers. \$9.

The Kid From Hoboken, An Autobiography. Bill Bailey, \$12.95.

A People Betrayed – November 1918: A German Revolution by Alfred Döblin. \$8.00.

Bumperstickers

Six designs, each with IWW Globe on left. Slogans: Solidarity Forever, One Big Union, Because Capitalism Cannot Be Reformed, An Injury to One Is an Injury to All!, Don't Mourn Organize, Labor is Entitled to All It Creates. Black on durable white stock, \$1.25 each.

Available from IWW Branches

T-SHIRTS

Wobbly Globe, (S, M only), Join the OBU (L, XL only), **Sabo-Cat, General Strike** (S, M, L, XL) \$12 each, 100% cotton. State size & color (red or white) San Francisco Branch, PO Box 40485, SF CA 94140.

Film Workers (worker stepping over Hollywood sign), **One Big Union** \$10 Red shirts, black print. Button: **Don't Whine – Organize** Film Workers Organizing Committee IU 630. \$1. Los Angeles GMB, 1748 Clinton St., LA CA 90026. Ask for list of books about the IWW. 213-353-9885.

IWW Globe Black & red, M, L or XL. 50/50, \$14. Denver Group, 1130 Bannock, Denver CO 80204

The Objectives of Anarcho-Syndicalism by Rudolf Rocker. \$1. **Shopfloor Struggles of American Workers** by Martin Glaberman 50 cents. Ask for catalogue. Philadelphia GMB, 4722 Baltimore Ave., Philadelphia PA 19143

OUTSIDE U.S.

Canadian Songbook \$5. 36th Edition **Little Red Songbook** \$10. Toronto Branch, c/o J. Dymny, 11 Andrews Ave., Toronto ONT M6J 1S2

British Isles – Songbook £4; a selection of literature is available from IWW, 75 Humberstone Gate, Leicester LE1 1WB. From Oxford IWW *Burning Fuse* magazine £1 **Black IWW t-shirts,** red globe logo £5 plus post and packing

ORDER FORM:

Date: _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Postal Code _____

| Quantity | Item | Price |
|----------|------|-------|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

return to: IWW Literature Dept.
103 West Michigan Ave.
Ypsilanti, MI 48197 USA

total of above _____

add 10% shipping _____

U.S. Funds Only

full catalog available on request

TOTAL ORDER: \$ _____

San Francisco MTW Backs Liverpool Dockers

The San Francisco General Membership Branch has endorsed a proposal by a committee of Marine Transport Workers IU 510 (IWW) members to issue a special MTW assessment stamp for relief of locked-out Liverpool dockworkers, and for support of any U.S. maritime workers victimized for refusing to handle scab cargo. Excerpts

"The World is Our Picket Line"

April 15 – A total boycott of ships going to and from Liverpool started in Portugal. Portuguese dockers unions announced they had closed 11 out of 12 ports in Portugal to Liverpool shipping and were working on closing the last one.

April 16 – The Andrew Weir line ship "Churruca" was held up for several hours in Bilbao, Spain, when all five port unions struck jointly in support of the Mersey dockers. The ship runs a regular weekly service to Liverpool and the unions warned the company that it will face ongoing, escalating action by Bilbao unions.

April 29 – The ACL's main office in Gothenburg, Sweden, was occupied by 20 activists who pledged to remain until the office until the line removed itself from the Port of Liverpool until all 500 Dock Workers are reinstated.

April 27 – Liverpool Solidarity Conference calls for world-wide blockade of port of Liverpool, one-day general strike in support of dockers and against anti-labor laws, and picketing of all firms shipping goods through Liverpool ports.

April 30 – West Coast ILWU Longshoremen walk off ship, refusing to discharge scab cargo.

Los Angeles Stops Work

Dozens of ILWU Longshoremen from the Port Of Los Angeles walked off the OOCL Japan which was attempting to unload cargo from the Port of Liverpool April 30. A picket line had been established by two striking dockers.

The two-man picketline brought all the dockers off the ship and truck drivers were backed up for over two miles from the terminal waiting to load and discharge cargo. The entire terminal was shut down tight.

The ILWU and the ILA on the East Coast have backed the dockers from Liverpool whenever they have put up a picket line and this latest action will have a direct effect on the Merseyside Docks and Harbour Company (MDHC) who have fired 500 dockers for refusing to cross picketlines and fighting casualization. The largest stockholder of the MDHC is the British government and they are intent on fully privatizing the port and breaking the union.

West Coast dockers have also come under increasing attack with efforts to open up non-union port operations and the busting of longshoremen in Mexico. The Mexican government, with the support of the US, has privatized the ports and locked up the union halls in Veracruz and other cities. The shipping companies hope to break the back of the ILWU by setting up a scab shipping operation in Mexico and undercutting the

No Need to be Nice to Scabs

An Illinois judge has thrown out a lawsuit by scabs who claim they were treated unkindly by union members when they crossed picketlines at Caterpillar. The scabs claim unionists videotaped them, called them traitors and ostracized them. The judge ruled that workers have the right to "use intemperate, abusive or insulting language" in labor disputes and dismissed the case. Caterpillar (which financed the suit) responded with a veiled threat of disciplinary action against the unionists charged in the case.

from the resolution follow:

Whereas the "Torside Tigers" – the 500 striking Liverpool dockers – employees of Torside Ltd., a subsidiary of Mersey Docks and Harbour Co., have been victimized by British government and employer repression aimed at busting the U.K.'s last remaining port, and are fighting against the

company without support from their own union; and

Whereas the International Longshoremen's Association on the East and Gulf Coasts of the U.S. and the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union on the West Coast have both declared a commitment to supporting said British

maritime workers by hot cargo actions and other militant direct action tactics, and by contributing to said workers' strike funds; and

Whereas the IWW has always practiced international solidarity by lending its power and resources to the best of its ability to aid the struggles of fellow workers in other countries; and

Whereas big events are impending in the Pacific Coast marine transport industry, i.e.:

(1) The coastwide ILWU-Pacific Maritime Association longshore and marine clerks' contracts are set to expire July 1st, and the bosses are expected to launch a coordinated attack on key historic gains of the longshoremen and other maritime workers (won during and since the 1934 San Francisco General Strike and Pacific Coast Maritime Strike) during the upcoming negotiations;

(2) The marine division of the ILWU – the Inlandboatmen's Union of the Pacific – has recently been hit with extreme union-busting tactics by Crowley Maritime, Inc., which has pulled its Red Stack tugboat operation out of San Francisco Bay entirely (putting scores of tugboatmen – many with over 20 years seniority – on the unemployment lines), and is attempting to sell the Red & White Fleet, its passenger ferry service, all in an attempt to smash the IBU in its main stronghold, San Francisco Bay;

(3) The contracts between the Sailors' Union of the Pacific and two of its employers, Matson Shipping and American President Lines are set to expire on June 15th; and

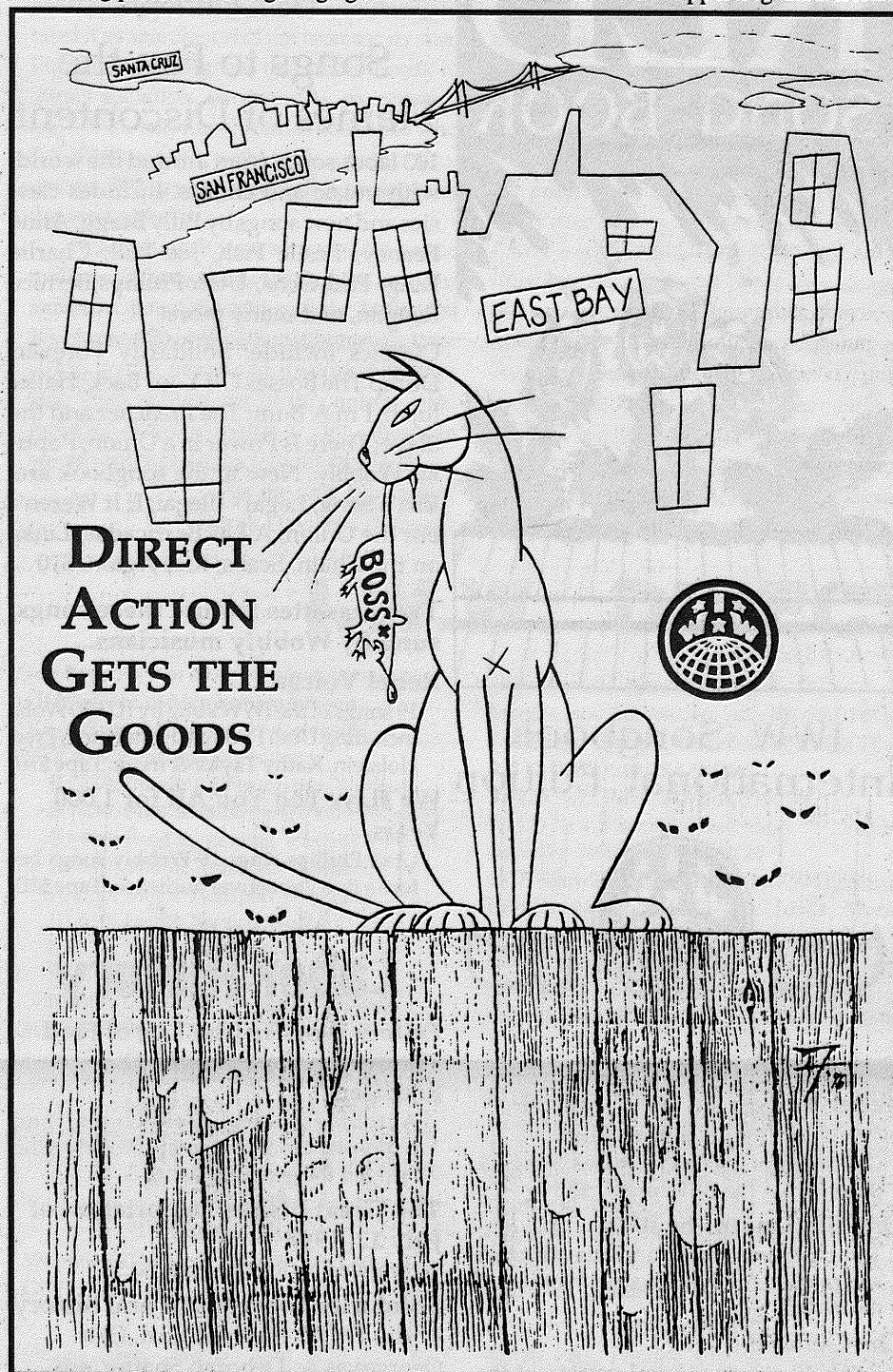
(4) In general, the maritime bosses are coordinating their efforts to make more dangerous incursions into the historic gains of maritime workers than are possible to list here, and such maritime manufacturing threatens the standard of life of all workers along the Coast; and

Whereas said workers in the U.K. and the unions on the West Coast are in a weak position financially, and are thus less prepared to repel the employers' attacks than may be desired, and deserve support from the entire workers' movement;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the San Francisco General Membership Branch, IWW, establish a voluntary dues assessment of \$5 per month to be divided evenly between the Liverpool dockers' strike fund and an MTW fund to provide support to West Coast maritime unions in their upcoming labor actions and/or strikes (said assessment to be distinct from regular MTW IU 510 assessments)...

So Resolved By Unanimous Vote, this 20th day of April, 1996, by the San Francisco Bay Area General Membership Branch of the Industrial Workers of the World, at its regular monthly business meeting.

An Injury To One Is An Injury To All!



unionized ports on California and British Columbia.

At an international dock workers conference on Feb 17-22, dockers from throughout the world met and set up an international network to build support for the Liverpool dockers and back each other up in their international battles against privatization and casualization. The "shape up," which historically has been used by the shipping companies and ship owners, has made a comeback throughout the world and the international response to the defense of the Liverpool dockers seems to be growing evidence that dockers worldwide are seeing a much greater need for direct international solidarity.

— Steve Zeltzer

Support Needed

Messages of support can be sent to the dockers by fax to 44-151-298-1044

The dockers have produced a 52-page pamphlet giving details of the nature of the dispute, a record of the international conference of dockworkers (held in Liverpool from the 17th to the 23rd February) and of their solidarity actions, and historical accounts of Liverpool & London dockworkers. Copies are £2.50 An enamel badge indicating international support for the 500 sacked dockers in their principle of never crossing a picket line and fighting against casual labour and the destruction of union rights is available for £2. T-Shirts (Support Liverpool Dockers) are £5. Also available are two

videos – a history of the dispute, and highlights of the conference – for £10 apiece.

Proceeds from these items will go to the 500 sacked dockers and their families as well as helping to break the conspiracy of silence of the bosses' press. Checks and Postal Orders should be made out to Merseyside Dockers Shop Stewards' Committee and sent to J. Davies, Secretary/Treasurer, 19 Scorton Street, Liverpool, L6 4AS United Kingdom

The online edition of the *Dockers Charter* and other information can be found at: <http://www.gn.apc.org/labournet/docks/>

Be a Wobbly — Join the IWW...

Real Democracy! All policy decisions are made by referendum. The IWW has just one (modestly) paid officer, the General Secretary-Treasurer. The 7-member General Executive Board is elected annually by the entire membership. All officers may be recalled by referendum. IWW workplaces and branches make their own decisions about bargaining and strategy.

To Join mail this form with a check or money order for initiation and first month's dues to IWW, 103 West Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti MI 48197, or contact your local delegate. **Dues:** Monthly income under \$800: \$5 per month; Income \$800-1700: \$9 monthly; Over \$1700: Dues \$12. Initiation Fee is same as one month's dues. A low-income worker can join for as little as \$10.00

☐ I affirm that I am a worker, and that I am not an employer.
☐ I agree to abide by the IWW constitution and regulations.
☐ I will study its principles and make myself acquainted with its purposes.
 Name: _____ Occupation: _____
 Address: _____ City: _____
 State/Prov.: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Membership includes a subscription to the Industrial Worker